

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
EPA New England
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February 09, 2004

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Mayor Ruberto, City of Pittsfield
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Public Information Repositories

RE: January 2004 Monthly Report
1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action
GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site

Enclosed please find the January 2004 Monthly Report for the 1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action. In accordance with the Consent Decree for the GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is performing the 1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action, with General Electric funding a portion of the project through a cost sharing formula.

The EPA has entered into an agreement with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to assist in the design and construction of the Removal Action. The USACE subsequently awarded a design-construct contract to Weston Solutions, Inc. (Weston). Weston, with several subcontractors, will be performing the design and construction activities for the 1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (413) 236-0969.

Sincerely,

Dean Tagliaferro
1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action Project Manager

1. Overview

During January 2004, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the USACE's contractor, Weston Solutions, Inc., and Weston's subcontractors continued remediation activities on the 1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action. The primary work included initiation of excavation activities in Cell 14W, and completion of the installation and testing of the tie-back anchors for the anchored retaining wall. The installation of the cantilevered retaining wall in Cell 15E was initiated. In addition, transfer of non-TSCA materials from the stockpile management areas to the GE On Plant Consolidation Areas (OPCAs) was also performed.

2. Chronological description of tasks performed

Refer to Figure 1 for an orientation of the excavation cells and their respective locations.

By the end of December 2003, the installation of the tie-back anchors into the anchored sheetpile retaining wall in Cell 14E was initiated. During the first week of January, the installation of the tie-back anchors continued.

During the two-week Holiday break, a sinkhole developed on the parking lot of Parcel I8-23-6. The sinkhole was repaired during the first week of January by filling it in with gravel to bring it up to grade with the surrounding area. A twenty-four inch storm drain located directly under the sinkhole may have been damaged, and the damage, if present, could be related to the sinkhole. The City of Pittsfield was notified to assist in the investigation of the damaged storm drain.

Miscellaneous site clean up and equipment/water treatment system maintenance activities continued during the first week in January. Maintenance and cleaning of the trash racks and the anti freezing air bubbling system for the temporary dam was completed.

Also, by the end of December 2003, tree-clearing activities were completed on the riverbanks in Cells 14 and 15. The survey subcontractor delineated the excavation limits in Cell 14 and the cell was prepared for excavation activities. During the second week of January, the 54-inch pipe was relocated to the east side of the riverbed. Stop logs were installed on the temporary dam and the river water was diverted through the two 54-inch pipes. Sumps and trenches were installed in Cell 14W to assist in dewatering of the cell. Due to the extremely low ground water infiltration rate, the water level in Cell 14W was minimal. Therefore the non-TSCA excavation activities were initiated in Cell 14W. Excavation in Cell 14W began with the removal of the existing layer of large cobble from the riverbed. The non-TSCA riverbed cobble material was transported to Area 64A stockpile management area and the previously characterized non-TSCA riverbank material was excavated and transported to Area 64D stockpile management area. (See Table 1 for a daily summary of material transported to the stockpile management areas in the month of January and Table 2 for final excavation quantities to date).

Activities associated with installation and welding of the force-main pipe for the dewatering of Cells 14 and 15 were initiated. Since the distance between the active work zone and the water

treatment system is becoming greater as the excavation work is progressing downstream, a new force main pipe was required for dewatering of Cells 14 and 15. The force-main pipe was built by fusing fifty-foot lengths of 8-inch diameter HDPE pipe.

Also, during the second week of January the installation of the tie-back anchors continued and grouting of the anchors was initiated.

During this week the area of the sinkhole on Parcel I8-23-6 was located and surveyed by the survey subcontractor, the existing settlement monitoring points located in the vicinity of the sinkhole were resurveyed, and additional monitoring points were established.

During the third week of January, the installation of the force-main pipe for the dewatering of Cells 14 and 15 was completed and the water within Cell 14W was pumped to the water treatment system. The non-TSCA riverbed excavation activities in Cell 14W continued and TSCA riverbed excavation activities were initiated. The non-TSCA riverbed material was then transported to Area 64B stockpile management area and the TSCA material was transported to the Building 63 stockpile management area. The sections of the riverbed where bedrock was encountered were power washed to remove any visible sediment. Also, during the excavation of the riverbed, NAPL was observed in the sediment in one area of Cell 14W. The excavation of the NAPL impacted material was postponed until all of the non-TSCA and TSCA materials are removed from Cell 14W.

During the second day of excavation activities, the force-main pipe and the external components of the water treatment system froze due to extreme cold temperatures. Temperatures reached as low as 15 degrees below zero. Therefore excavation activities were suspended.

Other activities accomplished during the third week of January included the continuation of the installation and grouting of the anchors for the anchored sheetpile wall. Due to the extremely low temperatures, the drilling and the grouting for the anchors was slower than anticipated.

The survey subcontractor staked out the location of the cantilevered sheetpile retaining wall in Cell 15E.

During the fourth week of January, the excavation crew's efforts were diverted to addressing the problems associated with the freezing of the pipe and the water treatment system. Propane heating systems and insulating blankets were procured to assist in defrosting the modutanks. Building materials were obtained for winterizing the exterior components of the water treatment system. Housing structures were built for the water holding tanks. Lastly, it was determined that due to the relatively low flows being pumped from the excavation, a smaller force main might prove less prone to freezing, since water velocity in the smaller pipe would be increased. It was therefore decided to install a 4-inch diameter force-main. Fifty-foot lengths of the 4-inch pipe were subsequently fused to build the force-main.

Also, during the fourth week of January the installation and grouting of the anchors for the anchored sheetpile wall (with the exception of two anchors on the wing wall) was completed. Re-enforcement activities of the crib wall and the parking lot on Parcel I8-10-5 were initiated. The survey subcontractor staked out the locations of the proposed micropiles. The drilling,

installation and grouting of two micropiles on the border of Parcels I8-10-4 and I8-10-5 were completed.

The installation of the waler on the anchored sheetpile retaining wall was initiated.

During the last week of January, the installation of the waler on the anchored sheetpile retaining wall was completed. Also, the load testing of the anchors for the anchored sheetpile retaining wall was completed. The installation of the cantilevered sheetpile retaining wall in Cell 15E was initiated.

Other activities during the last week of January included the winterizing efforts of the water treatment and dewatering system. The installation of the new 4-inch diameter force main was completed.

Since several components of the water treatment system froze during the month of January, the water treatment system treated a limited amount of water. Therefore the monthly sampling of the water treatment system for the month of January was not performed. Air monitoring for particulate matter (PM10 sampling) and surface water turbidity monitoring was performed on a daily basis. The monthly PCB air-monitoring event was completed on January 09, 2004. Surface water sampling for total suspended solids (TSS) and PCBs was performed on January 07 and January 21, 2003.

The utility companies, Western Mass Electric and Verizon Telephone Company, continued the utility relocation work on High Street to allow Phase II remediation activities to continue. Time Warner Cable completed all the relocation work required.

The transfer of non-TSCA materials from the Building 65 stockpile management area to the Hill 78 OPCA was performed on January 12, 2004. (See Table 3 for a summary of material transported to the OPCAs in January 2004 and Table 4 for a summary of material transported to the OPCAs for the project through January 2004).

The vibration monitoring activities continued on parcel I8-10-5. Two monitoring locations were established in the active work area, one to monitor the crib wall and the parking lot and the other to monitor the building located on the parcel. (See Figure 1 for the locations of the Vibration Monitors).

Stockpile management area activities continued throughout the month of January. Daily inspections, operation, and maintenance activities were performed within Buildings 63, 65 and Area 64 (the outside stockpile area).

Traffic control was conducted periodically on Lyman Street, High Street and Elm Street during the month of January. Additional traffic control and parking information signs were installed on Elm and High Street.

3. Sampling/test results received

The results of the daily particulate air monitoring program are summarized in Table 5. Table 6 is a summary of daily turbidity monitoring results. Results for PCB and TSS samples and water column monitoring data collected on December 17, 2003 and January 07, 2004 are presented in Table 7. PCB and TSS results for water monitoring samples collected on January 21, 2004 are not yet available. Analytical results for the air sampling completed on December 17, 2003 and January 09 are provided in Table 8.

4. Diagrams associated with the tasks performed

Figure 1 is a map of Phase I and the beginning of Phase II and includes layout of all excavation cells, temporary dam, lot parcel identification numbers, water monitoring locations, air sampling locations, vibration monitoring locations, access road locations, fence line location, the water treatment system pad location, the effluent discharge location, and the utility trench location.

5. Reports received and prepared

Weston received a vibration monitoring summary report for the period of January 11, 2004 to January 28, 2004 from Vibra-Tech, Inc. During this period, two seismographs were set up on Parcel I8-10-5. One unit was set up to monitor the parking lot and the top of the crib wall and the other unit was set up to monitor the building located on the parcel. Both units were set up to collect data on the continuous seismic mode. The seismograph unit monitoring the building experienced technical difficulties during the extreme cold temperatures; therefore monitoring data for the building location is only available for several days. Activities occurring near the two monitoring locations during this period included normal background activities, the installation and testing of the tie-back anchors for the anchored sheetpile wall, as well as general construction activities. All of the ground vibrations measured complied with the project specifications with two exceptions at the crib wall location. The two readings in question at the crib wall location were not consistent with construction activities. As a result these two readings were most likely due to human interference.

6. Photo documentation of activities performed

See attached photos.

7. Brief description of work to be performed in February 2004

- Continue utility relocation activities on the riverbanks from Elm Street Bridge to Dawes Avenue Bridge.
- Initiate riverbank excavation activities in Cell 14E.
- Continue riverbed and riverbank excavation activities in Cell 14W.
- Continue the re-enforcement activities of the crib wall and the parking lot on Parcel I8-10-5.
- Complete the installation of the cantilevered sheetpile retaining wall in Cell 15E.
- Continue stockpile management activities at Buildings 63, 65, 68 and the Area 64 (outside contaminated material stockpile area)
- Continue daily air and turbidity monitoring.
- Continue PCB air sampling (once a month), water column sampling (twice a month), water treatment system sampling (once a month) and backfill material sampling (as needed).
- Continue vibration monitoring activities of the crib wall on Parcel I8-10-5 during re-enforcement activities of the crib wall and the parking lot and initiated monitoring on High Street during the cantilevered wall installation.

8. Attachments to this report

Table 1. Quantity of Bank and Sediment Material Excavated During the Month of January

Table 2. Quantity of Bank and Sediment Material Excavated to Date

Table 3. Quantity of Material Transferred to OPCAs During the Month of January

Table 4. Quantity of Material Transferred to OPCAs to Date

Table 5. Daily Air Monitoring Results

Table 6. Daily Water Column Turbidity Monitoring Results

Table 7. Summary of Turbidity, PCB, and TSS Water Column Monitoring Results

Table 8. PCB Air Sampling Results

Figure 1- Phase I Site Plan

Photodocumentation