

# Sampling, Monitoring Work to Begin Near River

**Little Scioto River Superfund Site**  
Marion County, Ohio

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## Contacts

For general questions or comments:

### **Susan Pastor**

EPA Community Involvement  
Coordinator  
Superfund Division  
EPA Region 5  
312-353-1325  
pastor.susan@epa.gov

For technical questions about the site:

### **Margaret Gielniewski**

EPA Remedial Project Manager  
Superfund Division  
EPA Region 5  
312-886-6244  
gielniewski.margaret@epa.gov

Region 5 toll-free:

800-621-8431,  
9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., weekdays

Region 5 address:

77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604

## For more information

The administrative record and other documents about the site can be found at:

### **Marion Public Library**

445 E. Church St.

### **EPA website:**

[www.epa.gov/region5/sites/littlescioto](http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/littlescioto)

Beginning the week of Oct. 18, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency contractors will begin ground water and sediment (mud) sampling activities along the Little Scioto River. Workers will be testing for semi-volatile organic compounds or SVOCs, including polyaromatic hydrocarbons or PAHs and metals originating from the former Baker Wood Creosoting site on Holland Road. PAHs are associated with coal tar creosote that was used to preserve wood while the plant operated from the 1890s to the 1960s.

To collect ground water samples, temporary monitoring wells will be installed along the bank of the Little Scioto River and its tributaries. This work, which will last about three weeks, will cover about nine river miles. It will start at Green Camp and move north past state Route 309. Based on the results, the wells will either be abandoned or more wells will be added to determine how much contamination exists and where it is headed.

Contractors will take sediment samples from small boats. Fish and mussels will also be sampled to determine if any ecological risks exist. This work should take about two weeks to complete.

A small staging area will be temporarily located at the closed city of Marion Landfill near Holland Road and state Route 95. Work will take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., weekdays. No more than eight people using small pieces of equipment are expected to work on-site, so there should not be any excessive noise or extra traffic. Work is expected to continue into mid-November.

## Additional sampling areas

Additional ground water and sediment samples will be collected from a three-mile stretch of North Rockswale Ditch; two miles of Rockswale Ditch and one mile of each tributary of Rockswale Ditch, Columbia Ditch and an unnamed ditch to see if the creosote has traveled that far.

Samples will also be taken in the northern portion of the river, which was the target of cleanup work in 2002 and 2006. These new samples will provide information about long-term protection from pollutants.



*Equipment such as this Geoprobe may be used to collect samples in the Little Scioto River.*

Soil and ground water samples will also be collected from the Baker Wood property. Although EPA addressed the immediate health threats in its previous cleanup project at that location, we now need to make sure there are no long-term health risks associated with Baker Wood. This round of sampling will tell us if there is any way contamination could possibly move from Baker Wood toward the river through its tributary, North Rockswale Ditch.

### History and background

The Little Scioto River lies to the west of Marion, Ohio, in Marion Township and Marion County. It flows south into the Scioto River, a major tributary of the Ohio River. Approximately four miles of river sediment is contaminated with coal tar creosote containing toxic SVOCs including PAHs. Waste from Baker Wood entered the Little Scioto River from the North Rockswale Ditch, which flows west along the south side of Holland Road. Since 1992, Ohio Department of Health has maintained a health advisory against swimming, wading and eating fish from this stretch of the river.

In April 1999, EPA began cleanup activities at the Baker Wood property. Afterward, workers drained and dredged a 1¼-mile stretch of the Little Scioto River. The area was backfilled with clean soil and the contaminated mud was removed and dried on a pad just east of the cleanup area.


It was eventually shipped to Bucyrus, Ohio, in 2001 for proper disposal.

The Little Scioto River cleanup project began in 2002 and was paid for by using a mix of funds from the U.S. Coast Guard Oil Pollution Act, EPA Superfund emergency removal program and Ohio EPA. Between 2002 and 2006 approximately 68,000 tons of sediment were removed from about two miles of the river as well as from a polluted shoreline area. Work ended near the intersection of state Route 95 in November 2006 when funding was no longer available. The cleanup had been slated to continue along the river to state Route 739.

In September 2009, the site was added to EPA's National Priorities List or NPL, which is a roster of hazardous waste sites that are eligible for cleanup under the Superfund program.

### Next steps

After all of the results have been analyzed by an EPA-approved lab, they will be documented in a remedial investigation report, which is expected to be completed and available to the public by the end of 2011. Based on the information in that report, another document called a feasibility study will be developed. It will list several possible cleanup options for the river and Baker Wood, if necessary.

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# LITTLE SCIOTO RIVER: Sampling Activities To Begin

United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency  
Region 5  
Superfund Division (SI-7J)  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

