



Superfund Update – Cleanup Progressing and Future Plans

Sauget Area 1 and Area 2 Superfund Sites

Sauget, Illinois

November 2009

For more information

EPA Web sites

More information about the Sauget Area 1 and Area 2 Superfund sites is available at:

epa.gov/region5/sites/saugetarea1
epa.gov/region5/sites/saugetarea2

Local library

EPA invites the public to review technical reports, fact sheets and other official documents related to Sauget Area 1 and Area 2 sites at the information repository:

Cahokia Public Library
140 Cahokia Drive

Contact EPA

These EPA team members are available to answer questions or take comments about the Sauget sites:

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p.m., weekdays

Short-term cleanup activities continue at the Sauget Area 1 and Area 2 Superfund sites while U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 makes plans for a long-term, permanent solution to the contamination problems at the sites. EPA representatives will be conducting interviews with community members to get local insight into concerns and information needs at the hazardous waste sites. This fact sheet was written to update interested people on recent cleanup activity in the region and look forward to what the future might bring. First, a little background about these areas:

Site history

EPA first got involved with the sites in the late 1980s when sediment (mud) contaminated with PCBs, pesticides and metals was found in the northern part of Dead Creek located in Sauget Area 1. PCBs are polychlorinated biphenyls, which were once used in many industrial processes but are very hazardous to people and wildlife. EPA ordered the removal of the contaminated sediment, and legally responsible parties Monsanto and Solutia Inc. paid for the removal under EPA oversight. Solutia operates a manufacturing plant next to Area 1.

EPA has entered into legal agreements with other companies that contributed to contaminants at Sauget Areas 1 and 2. Sauget Area 1 covers about three miles of Dead Creek and about 40 acres of adjacent land. Sauget Area 2 covers about 300 acres close to the Mississippi River, mostly in the towns of Sauget and Cahokia. The W.G. Krummrich Facility is not part of the Sauget Area 1 and 2 Superfund sites. It is being cleaned up through another EPA program.

Sauget Area 1 update

Area 1 cleanup is being handled by short-term removal actions and a long-term project that focuses on cleaning up the entire site. A remedial investigation and feasibility study are required for the long-term cleanup phase. The “remedial investigation” details the types, quantities and hazards of the pollutants on the site, while the “feasibility study” identifies and evaluates possible cleanup options for the property.

Sauget Area 1 is made up of 12 contaminant sources illustrated on the map on P. 2 of this fact sheet:

- Segment A-F of Dead Creek and Borrow Pit Lake.
- Adjacent sites G, H, I, L, M and N. Sites G, H and I are inactive landfills or former disposal areas next to the creek. Site L was used by waste haulers to dispose of wastewater, and sites M and N are former sand pits.

Sites G, H, and I contributed to a contaminated ground water plume flowing west towards the Mississippi River and contaminated ground water under and close to the disposal areas. Ground water is an

environmental term for an underground supply of fresh water. A plume is a mass of contaminated ground water. Short-term cleanup work at the sites includes:

- Removing 22,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from Dead Creek Segment A.
- Consolidating waste and placing a soil cover over the Site G landfill after an underground fire.
- Removing 58,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment and soil from Dead Creek segments B-F, site M and the Borrow Pit Lake.
- Replacing culverts and pumping water in areas of Dead Creek to improve drainage and lessen standing water.
- Placing a liner in creek segment B.

Contaminated ground water is not currently being used as drinking water, and new drinking water wells are not allowed. A few non-drinking water wells still exist at residences in the area.

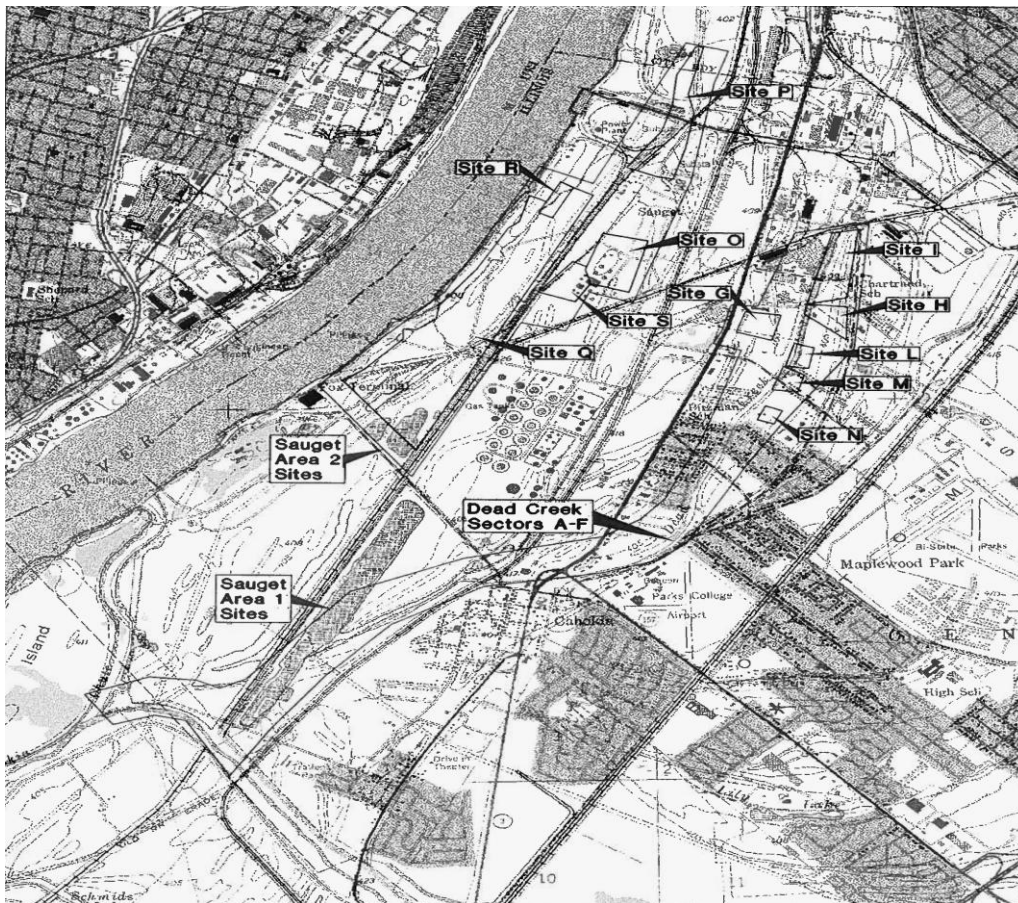
Once the remedial investigation and feasibility study are completed EPA will pick its recommended cleanup option, hold a meeting and comment period to get public input and then issue a proposed cleanup plan to manage the remaining contamination at the site.

Sauget Area 2 update

Area 2 cleanup included constructing a barrier wall around Site R to capture contaminated water and prevent it from reaching the Mississippi River and pumping and treating ground water off-site. In addition, over 3,000 drums and 17,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil were removed from Site Q. Sauget Area 2 was used to treat and dispose of industrial, municipal and chemical waste and is made up of the following sections (see map below):

- Four landfills sites Q, R, S and P.
- Four backfilled lagoons, site O

Added studies and investigations to assess cleanup alternatives are being incorporated into an updated feasibility study on Area 2. Final cleanup decisions could be made in 2011



Map shows the numerous sub-sections of Sauget Areas 1 and 2 Superfund sites. The river shown on the map is the Mississippi.