

MAC

Multi-Agency Coordination Group Members

The MAC is composed of local, state and federal agencies that have responded to the Enbridge oil spill near Marshall, Michigan.

Allegan County Emergency Management

Calhoun County Office of Emergency Management

Calhoun County Public Health Department

City of Battle Creek

City of Marshall

Enbridge

Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department

Michigan Department of Community Health

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Michigan State Police

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Kalamazoo River and Morrow Lake open

Enbridge Oil Spill Site, June 2012

MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATION GROUP

FACT SHEET

Local, state and federal agencies that responded to the Enbridge oil spill announced June 21 that an additional 34 miles of the Kalamazoo River and the entire 2 miles of Morrow Lake are now open for recreational use.

Part of the area referred to as the Morrow Lake Delta is still closed. The closed portion will be identified by buoys. Those using the river should follow buoy restrictions for their own safety and the safety of workers still conducting cleanup.

Boaters will have to portage between a canoe launch on the delta and the River Oaks boat launch.

The newly opened portion stretches from Saylor's Landing near 15 Mile Road and the Kalamazoo River in Calhoun County to Morrow Lake. This follows the opening of a nearly three-mile portion that opened April 18 from Perrin Dam in Marshall to Saylor's Landing, a new river access site near 15 Mile Road and the Kalamazoo River.

Following the July 2010 Enbridge pipeline oil spill near Marshall, county health agencies closed public access to 39 miles of the river system to protect public health and safety during the cleanup.

Your safety is the major concern

Your health and safety has been the major concern since the oil spill cleanup began and that won't change as the cleanup moves into its final stages.

You should be careful on parts of the river where cleanup work is active. Workers may be using equipment that could cause injuries. Some areas of the river are still being cleaned and are not yet safe for public use. Buoys with safety warnings have been placed at restricted areas. For your own safety, obey the signs and do not enter restricted areas.

The state and local health departments don't expect any long-term health effects from touching residual oil on the river or in the sediment, but there could be temporary effects such as skin irritation. You should wash your skin and clothes with plain soap and water as soon as possible after coming in contact with oil. Stations with cleaning wipes have been set up near the kiosks at launch stations. Disposal bins for used wipes are available near the cleaning stations.

Be sure to put used cleaning wipes in the bins.

The kiosks also have instructions on how to clean oil from watercraft and where to get help with cleaning major contamination.

If you want to fish and hunt in the area, read the Michigan Department of Community Health guidelines on consumption of fish and game which are available on the Internet.

During stormy weather, stay off the water and seek shelter in an appropriate place. If you are in a boat, get to land and stay off the water for at least 30 minutes after the last lightning is seen or thunder heard.

New launching points have been built and many have been remodeled with shelters for your convenience. The boat launch points are:

- Perrin Dam at the Marshall Public Works building
- Saylor's Landing on 15 Mile Road
- Ceresco Dam at 11 Mile Road, downstream from the dam (not yet open)
- Historic Bridge Park near Wattles Road
- Paddler's Grove at Beadle Lake Road
- Mill Pond Dam at Washington and Michigan Avenues
- Linear Park at Linear and Michigan Avenues
- Fort Custer Recreation Area at Fort Custer State Park
- 35th Street Bridge at South 35th Street and East Augusta Drive (not yet open)
- Morrow Lake at River Oaks County Park (not yet open)

Petroleum sheen vs. biological sheen

Because not every bit of oil will be cleaned up, from time to time those using the river can expect to see sheen — a filmy or rainbow-like substance floating on water. Most of us assume that all sheen is caused by oil, but in fact there are two general sources, petroleum sheen and biological sheen.



*Sightings of sheen on the water should be reported.
The number to call (800-306-6637) is listed on
kiosks located at boat launch locations.*

Much sheen does come from petroleum products. On the Kalamazoo River, many people assume the sheen is caused by oil from the Enbridge spill.

Some does come from that spill, but it may also be caused by runoff from traditional sources such as motorboats and gasoline, and oil being washed from parking lots into the river.

Less well-known is natural sheen resulting from decomposition of vegetation. According to the U.S. Geologic Survey, oil-like films and rock coatings are often made by bacteria reacting to the iron and manganese in the water. Both types of sheen look similar floating on water.

If you see any sheen on the water, you should report it. Phone numbers are posted at the new kiosks at boat launch sites, or see Page 3 of this fact sheet for other useful contact information.

What else you may see

A couple of new features you may encounter on the river are sediment traps and sedimentation collectors.

Sediment traps will be placed in side channels and backwater segments of the river where sediment deposits accumulate because of the slightly slower current. The sediment traps

likely will resemble natural features at first. The traps are submerged structures made up of pine and fir trees held in place by X-shaped wooden anchors. The traps may comprise as many as 100 trees that will help slow river current to further enhance deposition of the oil. Periodically, oil that accumulates with the sediment will be shaken loose and collected by vacuum, absorption material and other methods. The submerged structure will be replaced every few years to ensure maximum trapping ability.

The sedimentation collectors are set into concrete-weighted blocks below water level. The collectors are earthen vases that will allow sediment to settle. Sediment will be removed from the collectors on a regular schedule and sent to a laboratory for analysis. The analysis will help agencies determine whether the trap areas

are effective at collecting oil and oily sediment or whether new practices should be introduced.

Net Environmental Benefits Analysis

The cleanup strategy has been changed to carefully balance further action against any disturbance that action might cause. This approach, called Net Environmental Benefits Analysis, or NEBA, considers the short- and long-term effects of the oil and balances that with potential damage to the environment.

EPA has assembled a group of environmental experts to form the Scientific Support Coordination Group. For submerged oil – the main environmental concern now – the SSCG has thoroughly evaluated benefits and drawbacks of further cleanup actions. EPA and MDEQ believe this approach provides valuable advice for how much additional cleanup is necessary.

Reporting and more information

If you have questions, comments, suggestions or want to report oil sheen sightings, call the **Public Information Hotline** – open 24 hours, 800-306-6637.

For more information:

➤ **U.S. EPA**

www.epa.gov/enbridgespill

➤ **State of Michigan**

www.michigan.gov/som

➤ **Calhoun County**

www.calhouncountymi.gov/government/health_department/enbridge_oil_release

➤ **Enbridge**

<http://response.enbridgeus.com/response/>

➤ **Kalamazoo County**

www.kalcounty.com/hcs/oilspill.htm

New Service

If you want to receive email alerts whenever EPA has placed new information on its website, send a request to Don de Blasio at deblasio.don@epa.gov.