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# Cleanup Progress; Plans for Spring Work

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**Enbridge Oil Spill**  
Marshall, Michigan

April 2011

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## For more information

If you have questions, comments or need more information about the Enbridge oil spill you can contact:

### Don de Blasio

EPA Community  
Involvement Coordinator  
312-886-4360  
deblasio.don@epa.gov  
EPA toll-free: 800-621-8431,  
9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., weekdays

### On the Web

EPA has established a website at [www.epa.gov/enbridgespill](http://www.epa.gov/enbridgespill) to provide information about the response.

Internet access is available at your local libraries:

Marshall District Library  
124 W. Green St.  
Marshall

Helen Warner Library  
36 Minges Creek Place  
Battle Creek

Willard Public Library  
7 Van Buren St. W.  
Battle Creek

### More contacts

#### Public:

EPA Enbridge oil spill tip line –  
269-781-1914  
EPA toll-free public hotline for this  
emergency –  
800-306-6837

## Winter cleanup activities

Over the winter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality supervised daily cleanup work on Talmadge Creek and the Kalamazoo River. Cold temperatures solidified the oily sediment making it easier to remove. The responsible party, Enbridge Oil Partners LLP, built roads over the frozen ground to reach vulnerable areas that are more difficult to access in warmer weather.

Work crews removed contaminated soil and sediment at 17 sites along the Kalamazoo. They also sampled water and sediment for oil and harmful chemicals such as benzene.

## Oil sheens

EPA has received reports of oil sheens at various points along the river. The Agency is fully aware of these sites and is actively monitoring and evaluating them. This spring, EPA will consult with the State of Michigan to decide whether additional cleanup can be done without causing further environmental damage. Enbridge must clean up and restore all areas affected by its oil spill, unless it is determined that greater damage would result from cleaning up small pockets of contamination.

Assessment teams have compiled information about conditions at each quarter-mile segment of the river affected by the spill. This information along with maps and cleanup recommendations are on EPA's website.



*Work crews removed oil from the frozen Kalamazoo River. Additional cleanup of last summer's Enbridge oil spill will pick up this spring and continue into the summer months.*

Environmental experts estimate the ecosystem could recover in the next two to five years, but future assessment work will better define the timing of the recovery. Monitoring and investigations will continue along the creek and river for the next several years. To date, tests have shown no ground water contamination. Ground water is an environmental term for an underground supply of fresh water. However, the oil may not have had enough time to infiltrate monitoring and private wells. In any case, Enbridge is obligated to evaluate ground water quality and ensure drinking water supplies are protected.

### Spring cleanup activities

After the spring thaw, work crews will replace containment boom at strategic locations along the Kalamazoo. Daily operation and maintenance activities will accelerate. The areas containing submerged oil or residual oil along riverbanks will be assessed for possible cleanup. EPA will continue to work closely with local officials, stakeholders and affected residents.

### Reopening the Kalamazoo River

One big decision to be made in late spring or early summer will be when to reopen the Kalamazoo River to fishing, boating and other activities. Government agencies are committed to reopening the river as soon as possible.

Local authorities, including the health departments of Calhoun and Kalamazoo counties, will decide how and when to reopen the river or segments of the river. The river has been closed to recreational and commercial activity since the spill last summer.



*Enbridge cleanup contractors built roads over frozen ground in environmentally sensitive areas near Talmadge Creek and the Kalamazoo River.*



*Cold weather solidified the oily sludge and made removal easier. Water was drained from the frozen mixture before disposal and in some cases, recovered oil was recycled.*

### Looking ahead

After the spring rains and floods recede, officials will investigate how much oil appears to remain in and around the river and creek. If the effects of the oil spill appear to be under control, EPA will turn over long-term cleanup work and monitoring to the State of Michigan. During the transition, EPA representatives will remain on-site monitoring conditions.

#### By the numbers

Oil/water mixture recovered:  
**15 million gallons**

Oil recovered and recycled:  
**766,000 gallons**

Liquid waste remaining in on-site storage:  
**14,750 gallons**

Soil disposed of off-site:  
**93,000 cubic yards**

Debris disposed of off-site:  
**3.9 million pounds**