

### 4.2.3 Operable Unit #3: Wetlands and Drainageways

OU #3 addressed wetlands and drainageways between the former Nyanza Inc. Property and the Sudbury River that acted as continuing sources of mercury contamination to the Sudbury River. The Continuing Source Areas include the Eastern Wetland, Trolley Brook, and Outfall Creek/Lower Raceway. The remedy provided for:

1. Excavation of sediment with mercury levels above 1 mg/kg from the Continuing Source Areas (this cleanup level is protective of aquatic organisms as well as human health under all exposure scenarios).
2. Dewatering of the contaminated sediment.
3. Disposal of dewatered sediment under a portion of the cap constructed under OU #1.
4. Reconstruction of the area of cap removed during disposal.
5. Treatment of water from the dewatering operation with discharge to an on-site surface water body.
6. Restoration of impacted wetland areas.
7. Institutional controls to limit exposure to contaminants in the Sudbury River.
8. Planning and implementation of public awareness activities to increase public knowledge about contamination remaining in the Sudbury River sediment and fish.
9. Performing certain pre-design studies to aid in the design of the selected remedy.
10. Creation of OU #4 to conduct additional investigation of the Sudbury River.

The design of the remedy was completed in 1998. Cleanup activities commenced in March 1999 and were completed in August 2001.

### 4.2.4 Operable Unit #4: Sudbury River

OU #4 focuses on a 33-mile stretch of the Sudbury River, which was the recipient of contamination migrating from the Continuing Source Areas. Past sampling of the river found elevated levels of mercury in both the sediment and in the fish. In general, concentrations of mercury-contaminated sediments are highest in the river section and reservoirs just down gradient of the Site, and decrease in concentration with further distance downstream. Mercury contamination was found in fish from the river at levels exceeding the acceptable risk for human consumption, thus fish advisories have been posted. Additional studies of mercury in the river system were conducted by government and university scientists and were released in 1997. Additional data collection efforts are ongoing and will be used to finalize an assessment of the human health and ecological risks posed by mercury within the river system. If an unacceptable risk is identified, an evaluation of possible remedial alternatives and a proposed remedy will follow.

Site:	MA 000000000
Break:	2.2
Other:	09762

**FIVE-YEAR REVIEW REPORT  
FOR  
NYANZA CHEMICAL WASTE DUMP SUPERFUND SITE**

**Ashland, Massachusetts**

April 2004

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Date: 04/12/04