



Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
**News Release**

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For More Information

Al Taylor, 517-335-4799, [taylor@michigan.gov](mailto:taylor@michigan.gov)

Brad Wurfel, 517-241-7395, [wurfel@michigan.gov](mailto:wurfel@michigan.gov)

## **Dow gets early start on 2013 cleanups**

*Dioxin cleanup work progressing ahead of schedule; DEQ approves adding more Midland properties this year*

DEQ officials this week approved The Dow Chemical Company's request to get an early start on sampling 300 properties scheduled for dioxin testing in 2013 as part of the company's remediation work in Midland neighborhoods.

Earlier this summer, Dow was approved to accelerate sampling and any necessary cleanup on an additional 50 properties that were initially scheduled for work in 2013.

The five-year effort to address dioxin-contaminated soils in Midland, approved by DEQ June 1, is progressing ahead of schedule, so the company officials applied to amend the plan to continue to sample more properties as part of this year's work.

The cleanup is part of corrective action work required under the company's Hazardous Waste Management Facility Operating License to address contamination as a result of airborne emissions from Dow's historic waste management practices.

To date, of the approximately 150 properties sampled in Midland, 22 have tested above the site-specific action level of 250 parts per trillion. Those property owners have been offered cleanup paid for by Dow and this work is expected to be complete by October of this year.

Under the "adaptive management" provisions of the approved work plan, Dow proposed on September 6, 2012, to conduct soil sampling at up to 300 additional residential properties this fall that were originally scheduled for sampling in 2013. Affected residents will have the option of scheduling the sampling for this fall or waiting until next spring to have the sampling completed. Results from the fall sampling will be available in March of 2013. This will allow Dow to get an early start on cleaning up any properties that exceed the action level next spring and will generally move the overall cleanup schedule forward. The DEQ approved this "early start" on September 13.

Properties that test less than or equal to the action level do not require cleanup under Michigan law. All sampling and cleanup work is being done only with the consent of the property owner. The DEQ has been conducting oversight of this work.

The approved work plan, including the approved 2013 "early start" work proposal and related materials, are available online at [www.michigan.gov/deq/dioxin](http://www.michigan.gov/deq/dioxin) under "Midland Area Soil Cleanup." The website is updated regularly as work progresses.

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