

Hi! This note is brought to you by the Remediation and Redevelopment Division (RRD) of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Calumet Field Office. Our division's goal is to keep you up to date on RRD's environmental projects underway in the Keweenaw Peninsula. My name is Amy Keranen and I'm the DEQ project manager for the sites you are about to read about. I can be reached at the following phone number and addresses, and hope you'll keep in touch! DEQ Calumet Field Office (MSP Post), 55195 U.S. 41 North, Calumet, MI 49913; 906-337-0389; keranena@michigan.gov.

C&H Power plant work to resume in June. Honeywell Specialty Materials, under an agreement with the USEPA, plans to remove the concrete floor of the building that was demolished in 2013 in order to access the basement. The basement will be de-watered (the water will be treated prior to discharge) and the waste materials will be sampled and removed for disposal.

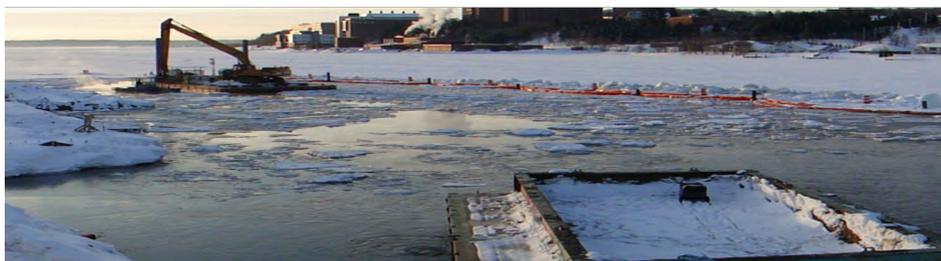


The metals and asbestos contaminated soils from across the site will be excavated. The basement will be filled in. It is anticipated this work will take much of the summer. USEPA on-scene coordinator, Andy Maguire, intends to hold a public information session shortly.

Dredging in the Portage Canal completed

The activities at the former Manufactured Gas Plant site in Ripley resumed in March 2014 with restoration of the dredged area where approximately 6,200 cubic yards of coal tar wastes was removed during the Fall 2013 from

an area approximately 70' X 500' along the shoreline. The consultant is evaluating the data and will determine what the next step is.



Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| C&H Power Plant | 1 |
| Portage Canal | 1 |
| Torch Lake PCBs | 2 & 3 |
| What's Next? | 4 |
| Tamarack City Stampmill asbestos | 4 |
| Hubbell Beach | 4 |

We're on the web!

DEQ/RRD
www.michigan.gov/deqrrd

Torch Lake PCB source investigation to start

The MDEQ is making final preparations to get out in the field—on-land and in-lake — with MDEQ, Weston and MTU staff, equipment and resources in order to conduct the investigation for unidentified source of PCBs in Torch Lake sediments and water. The on-going presence of PCBs in Torch Lake prevents it from being delisted as an Area of Concern under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

Our upcoming sampling is focused on finding the PCB source(s) at Torch Lake, as well as filling in the data gaps from samples collected by State & Federal Superfund, including Superfund's 2011 investigation in Lake Linden. We are hoping that we will then be able to check off the sub-parcels that make up the Lake Linden Operations area as problem/no problem and address those that still pose a risk. We will be evaluating the data as it comes back over the course of the summer and fall and plan for any needed additions during the winter.

MTU conducted a sonar scan of the Lake Linden & Hubbell area of Torch Lake in mid-May, mapping the lake bottom and identifying drums, debris fields and other suspicious areas to target our in-lake sampling.

MDEQ will be doing additional sonar work in the backwater area of Torch Lake, in addition to the lake area out front of C&H Tamarack City Operations area that will be investigated next year. We will also be collecting samples in locations where EPA identified elevated concentrations of PCBs in sediments in 2007 & 2008.

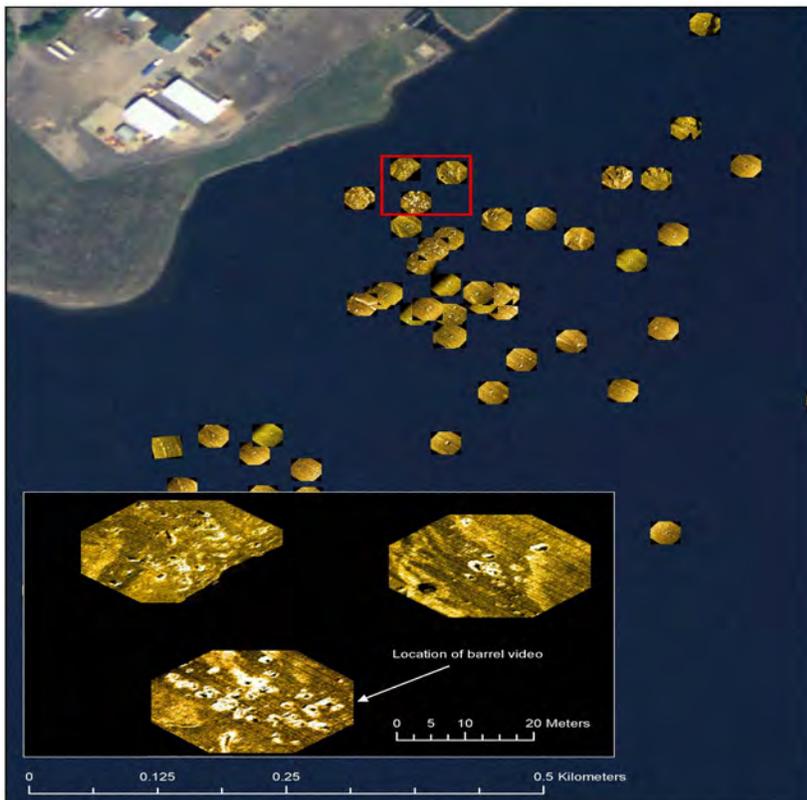
The bulk of the in-lake sampling, focused on areas in and around the identified drums & containers, will take place in July with Weston & MTU working together on MTU's boat and staff from the DEQ on our boat.

The work being conducted this summer is just one part of the investigation planned to look for the source of PCBs In Torch Lake. In 2015 we intend to look for PCB source areas and evaluate data gaps in the Tamarack City area while we fill in any data gaps from the work done in 2014 and consider any remedial actions that may be needed. After our investigation is conducted in Tamarack City, we plan to move to the Mason area where Quincy Mining Company conducted activities similar to what Calumet & Hecla (C&H) did in the Lake Linden, Hubbell and Tamarack City area.

As part of my work on this project, I felt it is important to keep the community informed of our work. I have started email lists to share information with the elected County Commissioners, Torch Lake shoreline township supervisors and village officials, the school district, local environmental groups and shoreline property owners within our planned project area. If you would like to be added to this email list (which basically just receives this newsletter via email), you could email me at keranena@michigan.gov and I will add you to the list.

Torch Lake PCB source investigation to start

To the right is a figure prepared by MTU, of areas where drums and other underwater debris have been observed prior to the May 2014 work. This figure shows a good aerial view of where this summer's investigation will be conducted, from the Traprock River on the north to just past the orange shaded area at the Hubbell Beach on the south end of the project limits.



This figure was prepared by MTU after an August 2013 outing where they obtained images of debris fields on the lake bottom. The circles on the map represent suspect areas made up of one or more containers.



EPA to address asbestos at the Tamarack City Stampmill-

In May 2013, asbestos was identified on the concrete surface around the "pillars" at the Tamarack City Stampmill property. After some liability inquiry and determination, the EPA plans to proceed with evaluation and clean-up of the asbestos on site.

The property has been posted with "No Trespassing" signs and it is advisable to remain out of the area until the extent of the asbestos has been cleaned up.



What's Next?

Over the course of the summer, through a methodical series of investigations (using the data collected in the previous sampling events to base future investigation and sampling) we will be working in the area from the Traprock River through the Hubbell boat launch. We anticipate wrapping up our field work in this area in late August.

During the fall and winter we will be evaluating that data and making decisions of what is needed next. I will send out another update when we know more.

In the meantime, let me know if you have any questions.

-Amy

Physical Hazards at Hubbell Beach to be Investigated

As part of the investigation for the source of PCBs in Torch Lake, the drilling crew will be working in the area of the Hubbell Beach (also known as "Torch Lake Township Beach & Boat Launch"). The peninsula of land adjacent to the beach is known to have been created out of slag (Hubbell Slag Dump, as it is known) and municipal wastes- it is reported to have been the "town dump".

There is extensive visual evidence that this area was indeed used for dumping, as there is a lot of broken glass, china, metal and other debris suggestive of household garbage. I took these pictures in October 2013. They clearly show the concerning debris. The conditions have been verified to still exist this spring.

Our work will include soil and groundwater samples to try to determine how extensive the debris is on-land at the beach and whether it poses a chemical hazard or not.

