



## Howards Bay Cleanup Superior, Wisconsin

### Common Sediment Contaminants in Howards Bay

#### PAHs (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons)

- Found everywhere in urban and suburban settings.
- Formed from the incomplete burning of plant or animal material.
- Deposited in Howards Bay from many sources, including industrial and commercial use of petroleum products (fuel and oil), historical use of creosote-treated wood pilings, runoff from asphalt roadways and parking lots, fuel spills and automobile exhaust.
- Wisconsin DHS fact sheet: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p4/p44606.pdf>

#### Lead

- Naturally occurring element historically used as a stabilizer in paint, gasoline, etc.
- Now found in the environment through lead paint residuals, automobile exhaust from leaded gasoline, and direct runoff from roadways and urban runoff via storm sewers.
- Lead levels found in Howards Bay sediments are below state, non-industrial requirements.
- Wisconsin DHS fact sheet: <https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/print/lead/clppp-info.htm>

#### Mercury

- Naturally occurring element.
- There are natural and manmade sources of mercury in the environment, including atmospheric deposits from coal combustion, industrial and commercial uses of mercury-containing products, and direct runoff from urban areas.
- Found in fish in Howards Bay and the St. Louis River.
- Wisconsin DHS fact sheet: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/print/chemical/mercury.htm>

#### Tributyltin

- Man-made compound historically used as an additive to paint used on boat hulls, buoys, etc. to prevent attachment and growth of aquatic plants and animals. No longer in use.
- Highly toxic to aquatic organisms; less toxic to humans.
- Cornell University fact sheet: <http://pmep.cce.cornell.edu/profiles/extoxnet/pyrethrins-ziram/tributyltin-ext.html>

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