



August 11, 2016

**ANNOUNCING A PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE  
U. S. STEEL DULUTH WORKS/SPIRIT LAKE SITE**

Greetings St. Louis River Stakeholders:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking public input on a draft plan to clean up contaminated sediment in Spirit Lake near the former U. S. Steel Duluth Works site. EPA will present the proposed cleanup plan at a public information meeting. This is your opportunity to provide your input and comments regarding the proposed remedy prior to the start of project design activities.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

**Aug. 25, 2016**

**3:00 p.m – 8:30 p.m.**

**Denfeld High School**

**401 N. 44<sup>th</sup> Ave. W**

**Duluth, Minn.**

Agenda

- Poster Session Open House availability between 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. Poster subjects:
  - Proposed Cleanup Overview
  - Environmental Dredging and Capping
  - Long-Term Monitoring and Natural Recovery
  - Confined Disposal Facilities
  - Ecological Restoration
  - EPA Role
- Presentation of the Proposed Plan 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- Question and Answer Session 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- Additional Poster Session Open House 8:00 p.m. – 8:30 pm

**Sediment Site Overview**

The sediment in Spirit Lake near the former U. S. Steel Duluth Works on the St. Louis River was impacted with polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, or PAHs, and heavy metals left over from the area's industrial past. This presents an unacceptable risk to wildlife in and around the river and could be unsafe for people if they are exposed to the pollutants.

EPA and U. S. Steel are working together through the Great Lakes Legacy Act to complete the sediment cleanup project. EPA and U. S. Steel developed a feasibility study of potential cleanup

approaches and to select a preferred cleanup alternative for the site. EPA and U. S. Steel solicited input from natural resource managers and local stakeholders regarding the proposed remedy. EPA is also coordinating with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to ensure that the proposed remedy meet both state and federal requirements for the protection of human health and the environment.

Based on feedback received from these stakeholders, EPA and U. S. Steel prepared an addendum to the feasibility study late last year that described a hybrid approach to cleanup addresses a range of issues raised to the Agency.

EPA and U. S. Steel are recommending implementation of this hybrid alternative to manage contaminated sediment. Highlights of the proposed plan include:

- Creation of a shallow sheltered bay and shallow open water bay habitats
  - Net gain of 30 acres of open water
- Dredging to remove nearly 700,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment
- A Confined Disposal Facility built in the delta above the ordinary high water level
- Two upland Confined Disposal Facilities
- Inclusion of remedial and engineered natural recovery caps
- Potential for recreational access and habitat enhancement post-cleanup

The feasibility studies describing each of the alternatives and the evaluation process can be found on the EPA website: [www.epa.gov/st-louis-river-bay-aoc/spirit-lake-legacy-act-cleanup](http://www.epa.gov/st-louis-river-bay-aoc/spirit-lake-legacy-act-cleanup).

Please see the attached map and fact sheet for more detailed information about the project and the proposed alternative.

We hope that you are able to attend this meeting and share your input and comments regarding this important project. Written comments will also be accepted. See the attached fact sheet for submitting written comments. EPA will accept public input until Sunday, Sept. 25, 2016.

If you have questions or concerns regarding the Former U. S. Steel Duluth Works – Spirit Lake sediment site activities, please contact me, Scott Cieniawski, at 312-353-9184 or via email at [cieniawski.Scott@epa.gov](mailto:cieniawski.Scott@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

Scott Cieniawski  
Project Manager, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Great Lakes National Program Office