

LOWER ROUGE RIVER OLD CHANNEL SEDIMENT CLEANUP PROJECT FACT SHEET

November 2017

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) is working throughout the Great Lakes to clean up pollution in river sediment. As part of an agreement with Honeywell, Inc., US EPA and Honeywell plan to complete a major sediment cleanup of the Lower Rouge River – Old Channel (LRROC) adjacent to Zug Island in Detroit, Michigan.

The purpose of the sediment cleanup project is to reduce exposure to people and the environment of coal tar contaminated sediment, and improve habitat and aquatic life.

Overview of the Project

The project will be conducted in two phases. Phase I will be installation of shoreline protection measures and Phase II will be dredging and capping of contaminated sediments.

Phase I – Shoreline Protection

Sheetpile Walls:

The shoreline and channel side slopes of the LRROC are steep and unstable in many areas. To safely remove sediments a permanent sheetpile wall is required along 2,500 feet of the shoreline. “Windows” will be cut in the wall for active underground utilities and under the Zug Island Bridge. There are four areas along the shoreline where temporary sheetpile will be used. After dredging the area downslope of the temporary sheetpile wall the area will be backfilled to preserve the stability of the channel side slopes and shoreline. After backfilling the temporary sheetpile will be removed and reused in another area.

Phase II – Shoreline Protection

Dredging and Capping

The cleanup project involves dredging of approximately 70,000 cubic yards of sediment from 10 acres. The sediment will be transported offsite by barge and disposed of at the US Army Corps of Engineers Point Mouillee Confined Disposal Facility in Monroe, MI. Specially designed containment curtains will be placed in the water around the dredging operation and AK Steel water intake to minimize the amount sediment released downstream during operations. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has established water quality requirements for the amount of silt allowable from the dredging operations, and water quality will be continuously monitored to ensure the requirements are met.

After dredging sand and stone will be placed over about 1 acre of the bottom of the river to isolate and cap sediment that cannot be removed safely.

Other Actions

There is a large amount of debris in the river that will be removed before construction of the sheetpile wall and dredging. Very large debris, such as timber piles, scrap wood and metal, and about eight cars, will be cleaned on site and shipped off for recycling or disposal.

Schedule

Permanent sheetpile wall construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2018 and take approximately 13 months. Dredging is expected to begin in early 2019, following completion of the sheetpile wall, and will take about 12 months to complete.

Short Term and Permanent Local Impacts

During the project there will be increased traffic in the area for construction workers, delivery of material, such as steel sheet piling, and for disposal of debris.

There are two surface streets that will be impacted by the construction of the permanent bulkhead wall, Springwells Ct. and Medina Street. Construction of the permanent wall requires a smaller anchor wall of the same length as the primary wall but set back 125ft. The anchor wall is to keep the primary wall in place and will be connected to it by a series of underground steel tieback rods every 15ft. Installation of the anchor wall requires the cul-de-sac at the end of Springwells Ct. to be removed. Springwells Ct. will terminate about 200 yards from where it does now once the cul-de-sac is removed. All infrastructure and utilities affected by the removal of the cul-de-sac will be permanently relocated. The rest of Springwells Ct. will be not affected by the construction.

Installation of the anchor wall at Medina St. will require temporary closure of the last 25 feet of the road, with closure of an additional 50ft along only the east side of the street. The temporary closure is expected to be about three months in early 2018.

Contact Us

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Figure 1 - Lower Rouge River Channel Clean-Up Project

