

### Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

The GLRI is the largest investment in the Great Lakes in two decades. Sixteen federal departments or agencies are working together on five priorities:

- Cleaning up toxics and Areas of Concern.
- Combating invasive species.
- Protecting the lakes from polluted runoff.
- Restoring wetlands and other habitats.
- Raising public awareness, tracking progress and working with partners.

### GLRI's Legacy Act

The Great Lakes Legacy Act can provide up to 65 percent of the cost of sediment cleanup and restoration work in an Area of Concern. The rest comes from cities, states and businesses. Legacy Act partnerships have cleaned up 19 sites in 12 Areas of Concern and remediated about 4 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment.

Completed cleanups have been a springboard for communities to build a foundation for future growth by transforming former toxic hot spots into attractive locations. Areas that were obstacles to economic growth are now valuable waterfront assets.

### Contact EPA

For more information, questions or to apply for a Legacy Act project, visit [www2.epa.gov/great-lakes-legacy-act](http://www2.epa.gov/great-lakes-legacy-act) or contact:

### Great Lakes Legacy Act

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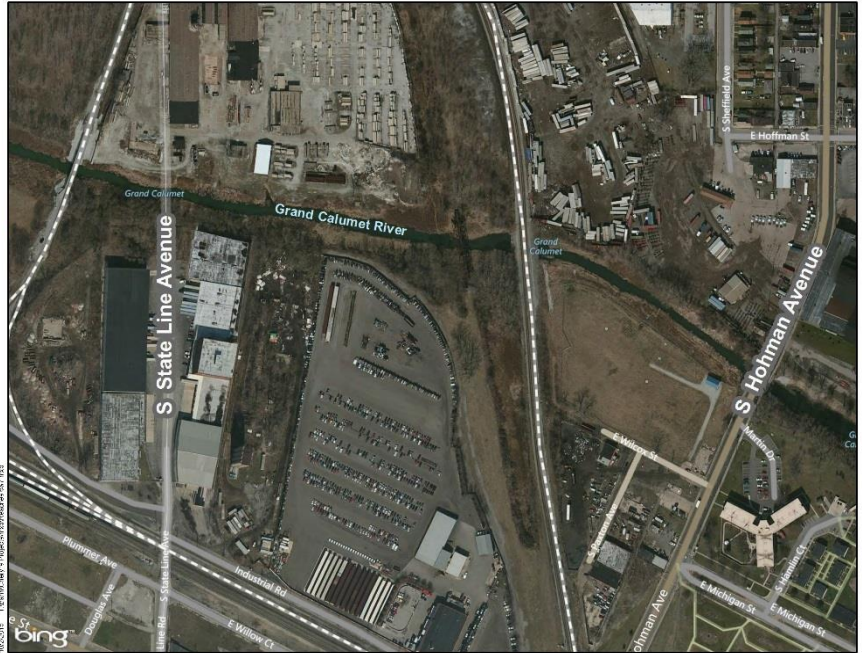
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# Cleanup Activities to Begin in the Stateline Project Area

## Stateline Great Lakes Legacy Act Project

Hammond, Indiana

October 2015



*This aerial photo shows the project area: the portion of the West Branch of the Grand Calumet River located between State Line Avenue on the left and Hohman Avenue on the right.*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes National Program Office is working with its non-federal sponsors, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Northern Indiana Public Service Co., to clean up a 0.4-mile stretch of the West Branch of the Grand Calumet River in Hammond, Indiana.

This project will result in the excavation of about 15,000 cubic yards of polluted sediment (mud) from the river. The excavated areas will then be capped and adjacent wetlands will be restored with native plants. This project will begin this fall and is expected to be completed in spring 2016.

The total cost of this Great Lakes Legacy Act Project is about \$12 million. Federal GLRI funds cover 62 percent, or \$7 million, and the non-federal sponsors will provide the required non-federal 38 percent share, or \$5 million.

### Air monitoring

Because dirt and sediment will be moved during project activities, an air monitoring program has been established at the project site to protect the local community during construction activities. Before work begins, background measurements of the local air quality will be made. This will provide a baseline for air quality measurements that will be taken during the project to protect residents and workers.

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*A typical perimeter air monitoring station that will be used to track airborne pollutants and dust.*

The air will be monitored for dust, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and volatile organic compounds using air monitors that work much like smoke detectors. The monitors will alert workers before emissions reach unsafe limits. Air monitoring will continue throughout the construction.

Since the sediment in this portion of the river contains coal tar, the work may occasionally produce noticeable odors. Coal tar smells very similar to mothballs or roofing tar. Workers will be able to reduce the odors using foam and tarps. Odors could still be noticeable even when levels of airborne pollutants are safe.

### **Preparation activities**

Several things need to happen to make sure everything is in place before the actual excavation and cleanup begins. These activities include:

- Installing soil erosion and sediment controls.
- Preparing access areas to the river in the project zone.
- Preparing equipment staging and laydown areas.
- Preparing gear to dewater excavated material and temporary treatment facilities for contaminated water at the staging areas.
- Installing a sediment control structure at the downstream (west) project boundary.

Surface water controls also need to be put in place in and around the cleanup area before construction activities can begin.

- Temporary controls will be installed to help manage water flow during construction activities.
- A temporary flow-diversion structure will be installed upstream near the Howard Street outfall to divert flows to the eastern branches of the Grand Calumet River.

### **Construction activities**

In September, contractors began working on the project. Construction of the sediment unloading and dewatering areas is underway. Other project activities that will occur over the next six months include:

- Dewatering the excavation work areas.
- Removing sediment from the river.
- Placing cap material in the river.
- Treating and disposing of contaminated water.
- Transporting and disposing of dewatered sediment, and other cleanup-related waste off-site. This will result in some additional truck traffic on Hohman Avenue.
- Restoring disturbed wetlands.
- Maintaining and monitoring restoration areas.



*Preparing the Stateline project area for cleanup activities.*