

Stimson Cooling Pond PCB Cleanup Project Update

DEQ Update

January 2016

The original Cooling Pond PCB Removal Action Work Plan, developed in 2010, addressed the remediation of the Cooling Pond and adjacent areas impacted by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and petroleum hydrocarbons (PH). The adjacent areas addressed included the Fire Pond Lagoon and portions of the east log track area impacted by PH and PCBs. This work is referred to as Phase I of the removal action. Phase 2 of the removal action, completed in February 2012, expanded an onsite repository to receive additional low-level waste (soils not exceeding 10 ppm PCBs), excavated during Phase 1.

In Phase 3, a first Addendum to the Work Plan (Addendum 1) was prepared to address the remediation of additional PCB soil contamination discovered during Phase 1 of the removal action (the MW-13 area). Addendum 1 also addressed: (i) the MW-11 area, (ii) the MW-15 area, and (iii) the SB-3 area. The implementation of the Addendum 1 (Phase 3) activities in these four areas was expected to be the final phase of the removal action required to be performed by Stimson Lumber under the Administrative Order on Consent (AOC). The Phase 3 removal action was completed in May of 2014.

In May 2014, the current owner of the Bonner Mill, Bonner Property Development, L.L.C. (BPD), informed Stimson Lumber and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) that it had found a limited area of PCB soil contamination in the course of demolishing a building historically referred to as the steam plant or compressor building, which was adjacent to the previous excavations. The sampling performed by WMD indicated that PCB-impacted soils were present near the northwest corner of the compressor building.

On October 6, 2014, Stimson and DEQ met with BPD at the site to view the compressor building area and to discuss actions required to investigate it. Stimson subsequently prepared a sampling work plan for the investigation of PCB impacts in the compressor building area. This work plan was approved by DEQ on April 23, 2015. Stimson conducted the compressor building sampling work in three field sampling events between May and August 2015. DEQ was periodically on-site during all three 2015 sampling events to provide sampling oversight. A report describing the results of the 2015 investigation was submitted to DEQ on October 8, 2015, called *Compressor Building Assessment Report, Addendum 2 to Final Cooling Pond Removal Work Plan, New-Fields; October 2015*.



Right: Summer 2015 test pit sampling

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The sample results of the compressor building investigation indicated that the highest concentrations of PCB-impacted soil are located beneath the western end of the former compressor building. DEQ required Stimson to prepare a removal action work plan for the removal of the additional PCB-contaminated materials in the compressor building area in accordance with the AOC, and the objectives of the proposed work are to remediate (via excavation and off-site disposal) soil and materials within the compressor building area containing PCBs above 0.74 ppm.

The work in the Phase 4 work plan is very similar to the MW-15 removal completed in 2014, because the work is over 100 feet from the Blackfoot River. A 32 to 35 foot hole will be dug to remove all of the PCB impacted materials. The contaminated materials will be hauled off-site to the Missoula landfill, and the materials containing PCB waste above 50 ppm will be shipped to the TSCA facility in Idaho that received the higher level PCB wastes from the earlier phases of the work. Once the planned excavation is complete, confirmation sampling will be performed on the sidewalls and base of the excavation to confirm whether the excavation has successfully removed the PCB-contaminated materials above 0.74 ppm. Stimson Lumber and its local contractors, NewFields and Envirocon, plan on starting the phase 4 removal action the week of January 4, 2016, and construction is expected to be completed by mid-March 2016.

A copy of the Phase 4 work plan, *Addendum 2 to the Final Cooling Pond Removal Work Plan – Work Plan for Compressor Building Area Soil Removal, Dec. 2015*, may be found on the DEQ webpage at deq.mt.gov/FedSuperfund/stimson.mcp.



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