

To: Jon Capacasa, Director, Water Protection Division, EPA Region III
Dana Minerva, Executive Director, Metro. Wash. Council of Governments
From: Frank Fritz & Cindy Weiss, Assistant Regional Counsels, EPA Region III
Date: October 21, 2009
Re: Anacostia River: Summary of Six Possible Sources of Sediment Contamination

Washington Navy Yard

Ownership: Dept. of Defense (DoD)
CERCLA lead agency (land): Dept. of Navy (DoN)
Entity performing cleanup: DoN
Agreement(s): 1998 Barry Farm Residents Council-U.S. consent decree;
1999 CERCLA § 120 Federal Facility Agreement
Contam. linked to sediment: PCBs and others
Status: On the NPL. Several removals completed, including removing PCB-contaminated sediment from storm sewers and excavating PCB-, petroleum- and lead-contaminated soil from several sites. Remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) ongoing. First round sediment sampling done. Second round sampling (sediment and fish tissue) finished Sept. 2009.

Southeast Federal Center/The Yards

Ownership: Partly GSA, partly private developer
CERCLA lead agency (land): no CERCLA actions planned at this point
Entity performing cleanup: GSA and other entities on certain parcels
Other PRPs: Navy
Agreement(s): 1998 Barry Farm Residents Council-U.S. consent decree;
1999 RCRA § 3013 order issued by EPA to GSA.
Contam. linked to sediment: PAHs, metals, PCBs, and others
Status: GSA cleaned out contaminated sediment (PCBs, etc.) from storm sewers, and replaced old timber pier with concrete pier. RCRA Facility Investigation (site-wide, including sediment) completed. More intensive assessment and contaminant abatement has been completed on parcel-by-parcel basis, prior to development, including excavation and removal of petroleum-, PCB- and metal-contaminated soil on many parcels. 2008 Human Health Risk Assessment includes screening level assessment of risks to humans from eating fish contaminated by sediment, with caveats regarding DC restrictions on fish consumption.

Poplar Point

Ownership: National Park Service (NPS) (land transfer to DC pending)
CERCLA lead agency (land): unclear
Entity performing cleanup: DC
Other PRPs: Navy, Architect of the Capitol, Army Corps of Engineers, NPS
Agreement(s): NPS-DC order for DC to conduct RI/FS
Contam. linked to sediment: PCBs, PAHs
Status: DC implementing RI/FS, including investigation of sediment along shore and at Stickfoot sewer outfall. Georgetown Law Center notified U.S. and DC of intent to file RCRA citizen suit.

Washington Gas Light (WGL)

Ownership: WGL owns East Station parcel. DC owns former NPS parcel adjacent to water.

CERCLA lead agency (land): DC

Entity performing cleanup: WGL

Agreement(s): 2000 DC-WGL East Station Letter Agreement (pump, capture, treat contaminated ground water); 2006 draft NPS-Washington Gas-DC consent decree to implement 2006 NPS Record of Decision; Site Specific Memorandum of Agreement between NPS and DC governing transfer, and setting forth procedures for re-evaluation of NPS ROD and implementation of remediation action

Contam. linked to sediment: PAHs, metals

Status: WGL continues to pump and treat groundwater to prevent coal tar contamination from migrating to the river. NPS performed RI/FS of NPS/DC property and issued ROD in 2006. Draft NPS-WGL consent decree to implement ROD not finalized due to transfer of property from NPS to DC. In 2009, WGL voluntarily submitted work plans to sample sediment. EPA, NPS and DC commented; WGL is preparing a response.

PEPCO Benning Road

Ownership: PEPCO

Entity performing cleanup: PEPCO

Agreement(s): none known to the authors

Contam. linked to sediment: PCBs, PAHs

Status: EPA finished CERCLA preliminary assessment in 2000. EPA sampled soil, sediment as part of CERCLA site investigation in fall 2008. EPA is currently evaluating data and response options.

Kenilworth Landfill (former DC dump)

Ownership: NPS

CERCLA lead agency (land): NPS

Entity performing cleanup: NPS

Agreement(s): none known to the authors

Contam. linked to sediment: Fill materials had PCBs, PAHs, metals

Status: NPS conducted RI/FS in 2002, proposed cap. EPA recommended excavation of waste material between landfill and aquatic habitat, wetland, restoring riparian habitat, forested buffer, and low impact development technologies. NPS installed riprap to prevent erosion.

Notes:

This summary focuses on the status of environmental investigation and cleanup related to contaminated sediment hotspots in the Anacostia River. It lists some of the main contaminants at each facility that may have migrated to sediment hotspots. No attempt is made to list all contaminants in sediment or on land.