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[Lockport Union-Sun & Journal, N.Y.](#)

Eighteen Mile Creek Superfund remediation expanded

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Clinton Street resident Cindy Bucolo was recently informed that her property was one of 50 recently added to the Eighteen Mile Creek Superfund project.

A letter from the Environmental Protection Agency dated July 11 explains that her property was among those that showed high levels of lead and a soil cleanup was necessary.

“(My husband) was born and raised in this house,” she said of her now-deceased husband. “I’m not sure that any of the five cancers he’s had have come from this lead because it is one of the things that they say you get from it.”

In the letter, Bucolo was told to take “preventative measures” which included washing hands after coming into contact with soil, taking shoes off at the door to reduce dirt in the house, cleaning the house of dust and tracked-in soil, bathing pets to reduce dirt in the house from their paws and avoiding activities that could disturb soil, including gardening.

Bucolo said she asked an EPA representative when work would be completed and was given a timeline of three to five years.

Currently, work is being done at Upson Park, as well as properties along Porter Street. These properties were formerly selected by the EPA in January of 2017. The soils in the area were heavily contaminated by lead and PCBs, according to the EPA and rested on the sites of the former Flintkote plant’s property and White Transportation’s property.

“When the EPA proposed the plan four years ago, we had identified only 22 properties that were contaminated. When we wrote the Record of Decision, we wrote it so it only includes those parcels,” Mike Basile, EPA’s community involvement coordinator, said.

From there construction contracts were bid on and work was started, but since that time the scope of the EPA’s focus has widened to 70 properties which will “eventually be remediated,” Basile said.

As for when work will commence on Clinton Street, Basile said that the timeline was difficult to ascertain and that the remediation could be done in two to three years, as likely as it could be in three to five years.

“It all depends on when the contractors start jobs and if we have a good construction year. If we have a winter that’s non-existent, we can still do a lot of work. So, it’s like throwing a dart against a wall,” he said. “So maybe three to five years, it could be two to three years. You never know.”

Basile also noted that air quality monitors are a part of the project, as well as “misting” the streets when soil is trucked out of the area, as is planned.

“We’ve done hundreds of properties in Western New York like the properties we’ll be doing in Lockport,” he said.

At Wednesday’s Common Council meeting, Bucolo brought her complaints to Mayor John Lombardi III and council members.

“I get in my car every morning, get my coffee in hand, drive up Clinton Street turn onto Mill Street. Go down to the construction zone. See everything happening that I was told was not going to happen,” she said. “There’s going to be misting going on, there’s not going to be any dust, there’s not going to be (expletive) flying,’ and it’s all flying.”

Lombardi said he and the council would look into this. First Ward Alderman John Craig also spoke, saying that Basile and the EPA will be at the council meeting on Oct. 9 for questions from the public.

“I would strongly encourage the community to come out and ask questions. The EPA is going to be here and they better have some answers,” Craig said.

Bucolo said she has also been at the city assessor’s office about her property’s assessment and its value in the face of being contaminated with high lead but was told to come back in March for informal grievances. She’s since told neighbors who also received a letter to go to the assessor’s office to grieve their assessments as well.

“I don’t know,” she said when asked if she thought the city would lower her taxes. “But I’m not going to be quiet.”

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Niagara Gazette, Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Scope of Eighteenmile Creek Corridor remediation expands

Niagara Gazette, Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Fri, December 27, 2024 at 7:17 AM EST

3 min read

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Dec. 27—The scope of the ongoing Eighteenmile Creek Corridor remediation project is expanding in lowertown Lockport.

Earlier this year the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency added 45 more residential properties to its future work list and spokesman Mike Basile said still more may be added as the agency tests and confirms the presence of lead in the soil in residential neighborhoods that once co-existed with mills and factories.

All told, since the Eighteenmile Creek Corridor site was added to the National Priorities List (aka the Superfund registry) in 2012, and the first phase of cleanup began in 2015, the number of commercial and residential properties targeted for remediation has grown to 70 from 22. The corridor spans roughly 15 miles from lowertown north to Olcott where the creek flows into Lake Ontario.

Phase two of remediation got underway over the summer, at Upson Park and 33 residential properties along Mill, Porter, Chapel, North Adam, Butler, Dayton and Frost streets.

Also over the summer, EPA sent letters to 45 other residential property owners informing them they've been targeted for future cleanup work due to the presence of lead in their yards. The form letter urged households to begin taking "preventative" measures immediately including washing hands after being in contact with soil, taking off shoes at the door to reduce tracking of dirt indoors, clearing dust and tracked-in dirt in the house, bathing pets to reduce the

tracking-in of dirt on their paws, and avoiding soil disturbing activities including gardening.

According to Basile, at Upson Park, the contaminants include PCBs as well as lead — a legacy of the Flintkote and White Transportation industrial operations — while the issue at targeted residential properties is "low levels" of lead in the soil.

There is no "imminent risk" to occupants of the targeted residential properties, and the exposure-reducing measures that EPA referenced are simply "common sense" recommendations, Basile said.

EPA was scheduled to test 35 more residential properties for lead last month.

From the time properties are identified as needing remediation, it could be anywhere from two to five years before they're cleaned up, according to Basile.

Meanwhile, the preliminary plan for cleanup phase three — tackling "hot spots" throughout a five-mile stretch of the creek from Harwood Street, Lockport, north into the town of Newfane — were aired in an Aug. 1 public input meeting. EPA devised five alternatives for remediating contaminated creek sediment and floodplain soil and said its preferred alternative — Option 3, excavating 54,000 cubic yards of sediment and 39,000 cubic yards of floodplain soil — carries an initial price tag of \$192 million.

Cleanup of the last 10 miles of the creek, where the Burt and Olcott dams are situated, will constitute the last phase or phases of the Superfund project.

The boundaries of the Superfund project area roughly mirror the boundaries of the Eighteenmile Creek Great Lakes Area of Concern, listed in 1987 for a finding that pollution from past industrial production and waste disposal caused "significant ecological degradation" in Lake Ontario / the Great Lakes Basin.

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