

PROPOSED PLAN FOR DREDGING AND CAPPING OF SEGMENT 1 OF THE PORTAGE CANAL

Project Description

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Department) at 101 S. Webster Street, Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin, is submitting public notification for a Department-funded remedial action under Wis. Admin. § NR 714.05 for the Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment System (BRRTS) database tracking number 02-11-543021, being the 600-ft portion of Segment 1 of the Portage Canal (Canal) between Dewitt and Adams Street. Note that the Canal has been spilt into four unique BRRTS numbers corresponding to each Segment (1, 2, 3, & 4). The Department, the City of Portage, and Columbia County have entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement to remediate Segment 1 of the contaminated sediment, with each unit of government contributing financial and in-kind resources to do so.

Contaminants

The Portage Canal sediments are known to be contaminated with heavy metals, semi-volatile organic compounds, petroleum type substances, and low-level polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) originating from various historical industrial activities in the area. The heavy metals include primarily lead and mercury, but also cadmium, chromium, copper, iron, nickel, silver, and zinc to a lesser extent. There is a fish consumption advisory specific to the Canal for PCBs in Common Carp. The Canal is in the Great Lakes Basin and has been identified by the Department as being on the impaired waters list with the cause of the impairment being contaminated sediment.

Proposed Action

The remedial action proposed for Segment 1 will be a combination of dredging the center of the canal and then capping the entire area, including adjacent to the existing walls to protect their stability as they were not designed to withstand full sediment removal. This remedial action is being performed in conjunction with the construction of the Columbia County Administration and Health Services Building development project.

The Department, with a consulting firm, has designed and will be overseeing the remedial action, with Columbia County's contractors executing the work. The sediment will be dredged and dewatered on-site and then transported to the Madison Prairie Landfill for proper disposal. The decant water from drying the sediment will be sent to the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Based on the contaminant concentrations, the de-watered sediment can be managed as a solid waste. After dredging is complete, an engineered sediment cap will be placed over the entire area of Segment 1. The remedial action is anticipated to be performed in May through June of 2016.

No Action Comparison

Following the Wis. Admin. § NR 700 rule series, the Department determined that a remedial action is necessary. Consistent with Wis. Admin. § NR 722, the Department assessed taking no action at this time and concluded that a remedial action would be more expensive for taxpayers after the County Administration and Health Services Building development project was completed.

Contact Information

Interested persons wishing to obtain more information may contact Scott Inman, DNR, 101 S Webster Street, Madison, WI 53707, tel. (608) 264-9201, or via email at Scott.Inman@Wisconsin.gov;

Complete copies of the project scope of work and bidding documents are available for public review at the following locations:

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 S Webster Street
Madison, WI 53707
(Please contact Scott Inman for an appointment.)

Portage Public Library
235 W. Edgewood Street
Portage, WI 53901

City of Portage
Portage Municipal Center
115 W Pleasant Street
Portage, WI 53901
(Please contact Aaron Jahncke at 742-2176 ext. 325 or Aaron.Jancke@portagewi.gov for an appointment.)

Columbia County Clerk's Office
400 DeWitt
Portage, WI 53901
(Please contact Kirk Konkell at (608) 742-6552 or Kirk.Konkel@co.columbia.wi.us for an appointment.)

Electronic versions of the project scope of work and bidding documents are available on the City's website under the "Canal Project" tab, which is the following link:
http://www.portagewi.gov/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={4C9DC24B-BA2E-4556-88AB-341F31C9903A}