



**Middletown Works
Middletown, Ohio**

FACT SHEET No. 2

Interim Measures for Dicks Creek Study Area

October 2006

Introduction

Under an Environmental Consent Decree signed in 2006, AK Steel is preparing to clean up PCB contamination from locations around Dicks Creek, identified as the Dicks Creek Study Area. The cleanup activities are called Interim Measures.

Interim Measures are actions taken in the near term to address potential threats to human health and the environment while more comprehensive studies are conducted to determine long-term cleanup needs. These actions can include containing, controlling or removing known areas of contamination.

The Dicks Creek Study Area includes a portion of Dicks Creek and its floodplain, part of Monroe Ditch, and several areas in the slag processing site adjacent to Middletown Works, which is operated by Tube City IMS. Monroe Ditch flows into Dicks Creek, and Dicks Creek flows into the Great Miami River.

Status of Cleanup Activities

Most of the testing needed to guide the cleanup effort has already been completed. Work plans that will be used to manage the cleanup are now being drawn up for approval by the U.S. EPA, Ohio EPA, and Sierra Club. Once they are approved, the cleanup can begin.

Required Cleanup Activities

AK Steel will conduct the following cleanup activities within the Dicks Creek Study Area.

Dicks Creek

AK Steel will remove PCB-contaminated sediment (dirt from the bottom of the creek) from a 2.5-mile stretch of Dicks Creek — from just upstream of Middletown Works Outfall 002 to about 300 feet west of the Main Street Bridge (see map). Floodplain soils along Dicks Creek will be further sampled to find out where the contamination is and then removed. Both the soil and the sediment will be transported to an off-site landfill for disposal.



Map of the Dicks Creek Study Area in Middletown, Ohio

Following the sediment removal, the creek area will be filled in with new, clean soil. The area will be restored in a way that reduces erosion and improves the habitat for fish and other water organisms.

AK Steel owns part of Dicks Creek and Monroe Ditch where the cleanup will occur, and is working with other property owners along the creek to obtain access agreements for the cleanup.

As an additional measure, AK Steel will plant trees and shrubs along an area of Dicks Creek upstream of Outfall 002 (to the east) to control groundwater seeps in that area that could contain PCBs. The trees and shrubs will take up water that would otherwise seep into the creek.

AK Steel will continue to monitor the banks of Dicks Creek for groundwater seeps, test them for PCBs and take remedial action as necessary.

Signs posted along the creek advising the public not to swim, bathe, drink or fish the waters will be maintained until the cleanup is complete.

Monroe Ditch

AK Steel will remove sediment contaminated with PCBs from the last 0.7 miles of Monroe Ditch, dispose of it in an off-site landfill, and restore the area in the same manner as Dicks Creek.

AK Steel will continue to operate a system that was installed in 1998 to recover and treat PCBs in groundwater (called an interceptor trench). The groundwater that is captured by this trench is treated on site by a carbon filtration system that removes the PCBs. It is then recycled.

AK Steel will continue to monitor the banks of Monroe Ditch for groundwater seeps, test them for PCBs and clean them up if necessary.

Public advisory signs along Monroe Ditch will also be maintained in the same manner as Dicks Creek until the cleanup is complete.

Other Areas

AK Steel will remove PCB-contaminated soil from two locations in the slag processing area — SS-01 and BH-08 (see map), and two floodplain soil locations — S23 and S25/28 (see map).

At location MDA-33S (see map), AK Steel will conduct additional studies and install a barrier wall and recovery wells to control the movement of an oily substance in the groundwater called “free product.”

Frequently Asked Questions

What are PCBs and how were they used?

Middletown Works used PCB-containing oils in hydraulic machinery and electrical transformers. PCBs were commonly used as coolants and lubricants until 1977, when their manufacture was stopped in the U.S. because of evidence they accumulate in the environment and can potentially impact health.

How did PCBs get into Dicks Creek and Monroe Ditch?

PCBs reached these waterways over time from oil recycling operations that were discontinued in the mid-1980s.

How will contaminated soils and sediments be removed?

Traditional dredging and excavation methods will be used to remove contaminated soils and sediments.

What are the target PCB cleanup goals?

The cleanup goal for sediment is 1.5 parts per million (ppm) on average with no single sample higher than 3 ppm. The goal for floodplain, SS-01, S23 and S25/28 soils is 5 ppm, and the target for BH-08 soils is 25 ppm.

Additional information is available from the following sources:

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AK Steel Information Repository

Middletown Public Library
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513-424-1251
Hours of operation:
Monday - Friday: 9:00 am – 9:00 pm
Saturday: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sunday: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm