

PCB Information & Investigation JUST THE FACTS

on the 10-Mile Drainage District

RECENTLY, A LIST OF "CITIZEN'S DEMANDS" was issued to Federal, State, County, and City officials entrusted with the investigation and ultimate cleanup of the PCB contamination of the 10-Mile Drainage District and the 10-Mile/Lange/Revere canals. The EPA, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), the Michigan Department of Community Health, the Macomb County Health Department, Macomb County Public Works and the City of St. Clair Shores answered the following concerns. The answers were mailed to residents as well as Clean Water Action. Additional information can be found on the City web site at www.stclairshores.net. Free Internet access is also available at the Library.

#1 Establish effective methods to monitor Lake St. Clair and all canals, outfalls, storm drains, and sanitary sewers and to notify the public in real-time.

FACT: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Great Lakes Commission are leading a bi-national project that is developing a comprehensive management plan for Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River. The goals of the planning effort are to...

1) Evaluate the causes of environmental stress to the St. Clair River and Lake St. Clair;
2) Determine management goals and objectives;
3) Review ongoing management activities; and
4) Develop recommendations for management priorities.

More information regarding the comprehensive Management Plan for Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River can be found at www.gle.org/stclair/. This web site provides an opportunity for concerned citizens to directly comment and provide recommendations to the responsible agencies regarding environmental concerns affecting the river and the lake. Project Coordinator, Collette Luff can be reached directly at 313-226-7485 for questions.

#2 Have regulatory agency representatives

attend the Public Forum to answer the public's questions. FACT: Representatives from the U.S. EPA, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), the Michigan Department of Community Health, and the Macomb County Health Department joined forces with Macomb County Public Works and the City of St. Clair Shores to answer resident's questions and concerns on Monday, June 17, 2002 at 7:30 PM at South Lake High School. This public informational meeting was sponsored by Congressman David Bonior.

#3 Designate the affected area as a Emergency Response Site after a full investigation is completed by the U.S. EPA.

FACT: The U.S. EPA is currently in the process of conducting an Emergency Site Assessment to determine the magnitude and extent of the PCB contamination. This includes an evaluation of all of the analytical data collected during the investigation. The U.S. EPA, in coordination with local and state agencies is developing a clean up plan to address the PCB contamination.

The U.S. EPA will designate this clean up as a "Time-Critical Removal Action." An Emergency Response designation is reserved for cases when there is an immediate threat to the public health and welfare posed by an ongoing emergency situation. An example of an Emergency Response is a fire at an industrial facility and the surrounding community is evacuated from their homes because hazardous chemicals in the smoke from the fire pose an immediate threat to the community.

#4 Post "NO BOATING, SWIMMING OR FISHING" signs in areas that are determined to contain PCB and other contamination.

FACT: Shortly after the discovery of PCBs in the 10-Mile Drainage District and the 10-Mile/Lange/Revere canals, the Macomb County Health Department established a

PCB Hotline (466-7923) to provide health-related information to concerned citizens. The Hotline gives several recommendations to minimize exposure to PCBs, including recommendations against swimming and fishing in the canals. These recommendations can also be found on the Macomb County Health Department web site www.macomb.mi.us/publichealth. As private canals for residential use only, officials from the Macomb County Health Department or the City of St. Clair Shores will be glad to meet with canal residents to determine the location of signs.

Although boat traffic could stir up the PCB sediments in the canals, abiding by the posted NO WAKE regulations within the canals will minimize the disturbance.

#5 Conduct a full investigation in Lake St. Clair and other canals, outflows, storm drains and sanitary sewers, drinking water, fish tissue, and sediment and air samples.

FACT: There are a number of projects conducted by Federal, State, County and Local agencies that address contamination including...

■ A comprehensive Management Plan for Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River currently in the development stages by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Great Lakes Commission.

■ The Macomb County Public Works plans to conduct water and sediment sampling for PCB contamination in all of the county drains that outlet to Lake St. Clair.

■ The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality manages a Fish Contaminate Monitoring Program for Lake St. Clair.

■ The Michigan Department of Community Health publishes the 2002 Michigan Fish Consumption Advisory Report that can be found at www.michigan.gov/mdch.

■ The communities along Lake St. Clair and the University of Michigan's Department of Naval Architecture and Engineering are in the second year of the

development of and Integrated Environmental Monitoring Network for Lake St. Clair which, when finished, will provide real-time circulation and pollution predictions.

■ On a yearly basis the City of St. Clair Shores communicates the water quality test results per the U.S. EPA guidelines for regulated and unregulated contaminants that may pollute the drinking water. Test results are published in the July/August issue of *Inside St. Clair Shores*, the City newsletter, and distributed to households citywide. The Consumer Confidence Report on Drinking Water is also available at the City of St. Clair Shores City Hall and Department of Public Works.

#6 Complete a health study of people in the Emergency Response Site area (s) and make free or low cost tests available for testing people, pets and property.

FACT: At the request of the Macomb County Health Department and the U.S. EPA, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) is reviewing the data from the 10-Mile Drainage District and the 10-Mile/Lange/Revere canal sampling. They are conducting a public health consultation with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). The MDCH will form a health opinion based on the data and community concerns and will recommend any necessary public health actions.

Recommendations could include a health study. Concerns can be directed to Christina Bush at 1-800-648-6942.

#7 Investigation of lawns and gardens in the area.

FACT: The U.S. EPA, in cooperation with state and local health agencies, is in the process of coordinating plans for a supplemental investigation of possible PCB contamination of residential lawns and gardens most likely impacted from the use of water from the 10-Mile/Lange/Revere canals. A sampling plan will be developed and soil

samples will be collected from representative properties along the canals to determine if the use of water from the canals has had any detrimental effects on these properties.

#8 Enforce the Clean Air and the Clean Water Act.

FACT: The U.S. EPA and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) are charged with enforcing the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. Both agencies take this mission very seriously. Enforcement actions are ongoing throughout the state and the nation. Timely notifications from industry, local agencies, and citizen groups are key to assisting U.S. EPA and MDEQ with their enforcement mandates.

In the case of the 10-Mile Drainage District System investigation, law enforcement agencies are also actively investigating the illegal dumping of PCBs into the storm drainage system. If the parties responsible for this action are identified, then they will be prosecuted and held responsible for the total cost of the investigation as well as any costs to clean up the contamination.

#9 Clean up all affected areas safely, quickly and effectively. FACT: The U.S. EPA has already begun its planning process to conduct a Time-Critical Removal Action to address the high-concentration PCB contamination in the 10-Mile Drainage System and the 10-Mile/Lange/Revere canals. The U.S. EPA anticipates initiating a Time-Critical Removal Action to address the high-concentration PCB contamination this summer.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) will conduct additional sediment sampling in the 10-Mile/Lange/Revere canals this summer to further define areas of lesser contamination that the U.S. EPA will not address. City and state officials will use the analytical data collected by the MDEQ to move forward with planning efforts to dredge the 10-Mile/Lange/Revere canals as originally planned.