

McLouth Steel Superfund Site Community Advisory Group (CAG)

TECHNICAL MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, November 14, 2024 | Virtual Meeting No. 17

Meeting in brief

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Share updates on the remedial investigation & feasibility study (RI/FS) for the Superfund site; and
- To share findings and next steps for investigations and corrective actions in the northern portion of the site.

See **Appendix A** for a list of CAG members, alternates, and agency representatives who were present. Links to summaries, presentations, and recordings from this and previous CAG meetings can be found at the CAG website here:

<https://mclouthsteelcag.org/resources-and-documents/>.

Action items

Responsibility	Item
CAG members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Review the November Meeting Summary
US EPA/EGLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Make additional edits to the site signage● Continue to share updates on RI/FS for the NPL site and corrective action on the RTRR portion at future meetings
CBI	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Update the CAG website with meeting materials● Distribute the draft meeting summary for review● Review member participation and address inactive seats

Summary of Discussions

Consensus Building Institute (CBI) facilitator Stacie Smith welcomed participants and reviewed the meeting agenda and ground rules.

Updates on the NPL site (southern portion)

In response to inquiries from the September CAG meeting, Nilia Green (US EPA Region 5) notified attendees that there is additional tree removal underway along Jefferson Avenue.

Ernest Ashley (CDM Smith) went on to present an overview and next steps for the remedial investigation & feasibility study (RI/FS) of the Superfund site. As a reminder, the goals of the RI are:

- To provide enough detail to assess the risks posed by the site to human health and the environment; and
- To enable evaluation of potential and appropriate remedial alternatives in the FS.

As a reminder, EPA is administering the site under three operable units (OUs):

- OU1 evaluates the source areas, including releases to the land, fill materials, and steel slag;
- OU2 evaluates impacts to groundwater and involves assessing site hydrogeology and evaluating groundwater discharge;
- OU3 evaluates the Trenton Channel, which includes surface water discharge from the site and impacts to sediment and porewater.

Mr. Ashley displayed a map of groundwater elevation contours, noting that groundwater generally flows toward the Trenton Channel with some westward flow likely due to dewatering at a nearby former limestone quarry. The Sibley Quarry is being pumped at a rate of over 1.5 million gallons per day and is being discharged to the outfall on King Road. The outfall is being monitored for contaminants.

CDM Smith reviewed the Year 2 Field Program for each of the operable units. OU1 and OU2 Year 2 Field programs will include additional soil borings, new monitoring wells, conductivity testing, and groundwater sampling for various constituents including volatile organics, PCBs, dioxins, and metals. Year 2 field work for OU3 will include a bathymetric survey of the Trenton Channel, collection of sediment samples using dredges and cores, porewater sampling, sediment trap collection and continual assessment for the following constituents :

- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
- Pesticides
- Metals
- Mercury
- Cyanide; dioxin/furans, and total organic carbon (TOC)
- Polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)
- Total petroleum hydrocarbon and oil and grease
- Acid volatile sulfide-simultaneous extracted metal (AVS-SEM)
- Polychlorinated biphenyls aroclors (PCBs)

EPA shared a general schedule for the year beginning with Year 2 field work and culminating with the preparation of the RI/FS in the last quarter of 2025.

[Michigan PFAS Action Response Team \(MPART\) listing](#)

Megan Cynar (EGLE) gave an overview of the site's background and ground water results from the Remedial Investigation. The site was placed on the National Priorities List (NPL) in May 2019, with remedial investigations beginning in July 2023. PFAS concentrations exceeding state

criteria prompted the site's listing as a Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) site in fall of 2024¹.

Ms. Cynar highlighted there are no drinking water wells in the area, and public water supplies are regularly monitored for PFAS with no noncommunity water supplies providing water to the public nearby. Year 2 of the Remedial Investigation will include collecting soil samples from new boring locations and completing a PFAS analysis on groundwater samples collected from newly installed monitoring wells and any existing monitoring wells not previously analyzed for PFAS.

CAG members offered the following comments and questions (*answers in italics*).

- **What do we know about the former uses of areas of the site that were flagged for high concentrations of PFAS?**
 - *EGLE: I believe that was an area where a significant fire was extinguished.*
- **Can you briefly outline new regulations related to PFAS that were mentioned in the presentation?**
 - *EGLE: The EPA released new Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for drinking water. The state is looking at those standards to figure out how to adopt them. For the MPART listing, we use the state standard.*
- **CBI: Can you clarify whether the MPART listing and Superfund site processes come together at a certain point in terms of the cleanup, or will they remain on different tracks?**
 - *EGLE: We will continue to update information on the McLouth Steel MPART site. MPART will remain involved, however less heavily involved as there is not a lot of risk from a public health standpoint. There will not be a separate MPART investigation.*
 - *EPA: Information we gather during the remedial investigation will be used to update the data on their list. In Year 2 of our investigation we will be returning to wells which have not yet been sampled for PFAS so we have a thorough understanding of the site.*

Site Signage

Kirstin Safakas (US EPA Region 5) delivered an update regarding new signage planned for installation along the perimeter fencing of the site. The EPA is coordinating with contractors to produce large vinyl banners featuring QR codes that will link to an internal EPA webpage with a dedicated “get to know the site” section under development. This webpage will host both existing and new “in-the-moment” videos about site investigations.

CAG members offered the following questions and feedback (*answers in italics*).

- Consider increasing the font size of “Superfund site” to ensure the superfund designation is clearly highlighted for passersby.
- Alter the font style to clarify the site's name as McLouth rather than “MCLOUTH”.

¹ McLouth Steel MPART site linked here:

<https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/investigations/sites-aoi/wayne-county/mclouth-steEl-trenton>

- The main purpose is clarity for the public. Make the communication clear on the concepts. Ensure all links work and there is clear communication on the webpage.
- One QR code is enough but consider linking the EPA webpage to the CAG website.
- In addition to the signs along the fenceline, could we consider converting the signs into posters for libraries and local government buildings?

Updates on the Northern Portion (EGLE)

Mark Messina (EGLE) reported on the investigation and corrective actions for the northern RTRR parcel. Mr. Messina noted that interim pumping measures have mitigated recent seep issues, but permanent solutions are needed to prevent recurrence. Collaboration continues with the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) to address potential contributions from water mains, with a shutdown test pending. Messina highlighted progress in collaboration with RTRR and GLWA on potential sources of groundwater mounding, and upcoming plans for further delineation of contamination.

CAG members offered the following comments and questions (*answers in italics*).

- **I have heard this area referred to as both Huntington drain and Mcloughlin creek. Which one is it?**
 - *EGLE: It is both. I treat them the same when looking at any data or reports.*
- **When they did railroad work they did not replace the sidewalk, there is no safe passage. Will we get an update on this?**
 - *Wayne County Department of Public Services: That is Riverview property, it would be up to the city to replace that portion of the sidewalk.*

Wrap-Up & Future Meetings

Ms. Smith, thanked the CAG, presenters, and members of the public for their participation. The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2025

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM

Appendix A. CAG members and agency representatives in attendance

Affiliation	Representative
City of Trenton	Jim Wagner
City of Riverview	
Grosse Ile Township	Joseph Porcarelli
Riverview Brownfields Authority	Brian Webb
City of Trenton Brownfields	
Trenton Visionaries	Wendy Pate
Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy	Paul Gloor (alternate)
Grosse Ile Civic Association	Bill Heil
	Greg Karmazin
Friends of the Detroit River	Robert Burns
DownRiver Waterfront Conservancy	Paul Frost
Past Employees of McLouth Steel	
Abutters	Robert Johnson
At-large Community Representatives	Judith Maiga
	Edith Traster
Liaison for Rep Debbie Dingell's Office	Cal Kirchen
Downriver Community Conference	John D'Addona

Agencies & consultants represented

Amber Falkner, US EPA Region 5

Nilia Green, US EPA Region 5

Kirstin Safakas, US EPA Region 5

Diane Russell, US EPA Region 5

Megan Cynar, EGLE

Christina Hebert, EGLE

Marc Messina, EGLE

Joost Van't Erve, MDHHS

Jennifer DePaulis, Wayne County Department of Public Services

Ernest Ashley, CDM Smith

Chris Vandegrift, CDM Smith

Meira Downie, Consensus Building Institute

Stacie Smith, Consensus Building Institute