

# McLouth Steel Superfund Site Community Advisory Group (CAG)

## TECHNICAL MEETING SUMMARY

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Thursday August 14 2025 | Virtual Meeting No. 20

### 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"><li>● Review the August Meeting Summary</li></ul>
US EPA/EGLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Continue to share updates on RI/FS for the NPL site and corrective action on the RTRR portion at future meetings</li><li>● EGLE create a table of criteria and findings of previous samples from the seep at Monguagon Creek</li></ul>
CBI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Update the CAG website with meeting materials</li><li>● Distribute the draft meeting summary for review</li></ul>

## Summary of Discussions

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

### Updates on the NPL site (southern portion)

Chris Vandegrift (CDM Smith) reviewed the completed Year 1 fieldwork for the site's three operable units (OUs), OU1, OU2, and OU3. Technical memorandums that summarize this data are available on the EPA McLouth [website](#). Chris then updated members on the progress of Year 2 fieldwork. For OU1 and OU2, the team has installed additional soil borings and monitoring wells, collected water elevation data and analyzed soil samples. The team sampled both new and existing wells for the same contaminants as Year 1: volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatiles (SVOCs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxin/furans, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), metals, and pH. The remaining Year 2 work for OU1 and OU2 includes deploying passive flux meters, conducting hydraulic conductivity testing, and completing well survey. The findings from this work will be summarized in new technical memorandums. Chris noted that within the next few months, they will transport material generated from the soil borings and groundwater sampling to proper disposal facilities and also noted that the office trailer has been removed from the site.

Chris also gave an overview of OU3 year 2 fieldwork, which includes collecting sediment and porewater samples from additional locations, deploying sediment traps, and conducting surface water sampling during a significant rain event. The OU3 samples will be analyzed for the same contaminants as Year 1, plus three additional parameters: total petroleum hydrocarbons (diesel and oil range organics) and oil and grease. Data collection for OU3 is expected to continue through October, followed by the evaluation of resulting analytical data. This winter they will start drafting technical memorandums in preparation for drafting the RI/FS (Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study) in the spring of 2026. The full presentation is available on the CAG website linked [here](#).

Diane Russell (US EPA Region 5 Community Involvement Coordinator) presented a photograph of the sign installed at the site (fence) and previewed the new informational videos accessible via the site sign's QR code and available on the McLouth Steel EPA [webpage](#). CAG members can reach out to Diane with ideas or requests for informational videos.

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

- **Are there any updates regarding groundwater movement and the influence of the quarry?**

- *EPA: The year one data showed a groundwater divide near West Jefferson Avenue, which suggested there might be some influence from the pumping at the quarry. CDM Smith installed a series of new wells this year to further define groundwater flow direction. We're still receiving the analytical data and the well head elevation survey has not been completed to evaluate the groundwater flow direction. The comprehensive evaluation of this data will be presented in the technical memorandums from Year 2 fieldwork.*
- **I recall that preliminary discussions indicated that the water looked like it was moving towards the quarry. Is that correct?**
  - *EPA: This is being investigated. CDM Smith conducted a synoptic round of ground water elevations for the whole site. During our survey, we will map the groundwater elevations to give us a comprehensive understanding of groundwater flow at the site.*
- **Can we get paper copies of the sign to distribute at city buildings because it is difficult to stop along the road right now? I would recommend putting print outs at city hall, Westfield center, and the library.**
  - *EPA: Yes, we can print copies of the sign. [Note: based on this request, EPA printed postcard versions and delivered them to these locations in September.]*
- **Does CDM Smith have any indication that the groundwater levels in the monitoring wells are dropping due to the dry weather in the area?**
  - *CDM Smith: We have collected 2 rounds of data and hope to collect more during groundwater monitoring program to determine the fluctuation over time.*
- **Chain of custody should be a topic for one of the informational videos because it shows how critical the evidence is and gives credibility to the work being conducted on the site.**
- **The fenceline is not visually pleasing and should be painted. I wanted the fenceline to be cleaned up but did not want all the trees to be cut.**
  - *EPA: I spoke with the property owners and they indicated that the vegetation clearing is almost complete.*
  - *Jim Wagner: It is my understanding that this work is under the jurisdiction of the city of Riverview and city of Trenton. The city of Trenton's City Administrator has an agreement with Crown and is pleased with how the work is being done.*

### Updates on the Northern Portion (EGLE)

Marc Messina (EGLE) reported on the investigation and corrective actions for the northern RTRR parcel. Groundwater sampling was conducted in May at a monitoring well in the northern area of the northern portion of the site. PFAS was detected in the sample but the site is not currently designated as an MPART site as all results were below the criteria. Marc noted that results could

vary based on the groundwater flow direction during sampling, and that EGLE will collect samples during northward groundwater flow in the Phase 2 investigation to gain a more comprehensive understanding of site-wide conditions. EGLE is awaiting final reports from Crown which will include recommendations for final remedies for two areas of interest. Once the AOI reports and recommendations are reviewed, the project will move into the site-wide phase 2 investigation which will include a focused effort on the southern outlet of the Monguagon Creek. Marc went on to share images of the interim remedial measures on the site and aerial images of what appears to be a shipwreck outline that correlates with a historic Army Corps map.

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

- **Have you taken a sample of the high pH calcium hydroxide solution—particularly when it is concentrated and flowing out of the county storm drain into the creek, or when bubbling up from the ballast. Have samples been analyzed for contaminants, such as PFAS and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)?**
  - *EGLE: We have collected samples of the groundwater seep itself and the high pH solution from the ballast area. We tested these samples for VOCs and metals. I do not recall any high hits other than the pH. I can create a table with the criteria and lab results for the next CAG meeting for better explanation.*
- **What is the deadline for Crown to submit their plans and recommendations for a permanent system to stop the high pH contamination issues at the two AOIs?**
  - *EGLE: The hard deadline is the close of business August 15th.*
- **Does EGLE plan to target the southern outlet area of the Monguagon Creek for sampling?**
  - *EGLE: That area will be a focus of Phase 2 investigation, with sampling concentrating on VOCs and petroleum constituents.*
- **Is the sump pump that feeds the frack tank manually operated?**
  - *EGLE: It is on at all times.*
- **Where are the property owners getting the power to run the continuous extraction pump near the creek?**
  - *EGLE: They are pulling power from a small structure that appears to be a remnant power box associated with an old EPA clay wall previously installed in that area.*
- **In relation to the potential shipwreck site and recent clearing, is there evidence of water flowing into the river due to the significant elevation change from the west side to the river's edge, especially now that vegetation has been removed?**
  - *EGLE: I can not speak to that.*

- **Can someone give an update on the compliance with the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Act (SESC)?**
  - *Jennifer DePaulis, Wayne County: We do not have an SESC violation at this time. We are trying to schedule an inspection with the property owner. They seem to be within their permit allowance.*

## Wrap Up & Next Steps

Ms. Smith thanked the CAG members for their participation and invited members interested in joining the leadership team to reach out to CBI.

The next meeting will take place on November 13th.

## Appendix A. CAG members and agency representatives in attendance

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

### Agencies & consultants represented:

Nilia Green, US EPA Region 5  
 Diane Russell, US EPA Region 5  
 Amber Falkner, US EPA GLNPO  
 Courtney Fung, EGLE  
 Marc Messina, EGLE  
 Joost Vant Erve, MDHHS  
 Jennifer DePaulis, Wayne County  
 Chris Vandegrift, CDM Smith  
 Meira Downie, Consensus Building Institute  
 Stacie Smith, Consensus Building Institute