



# Floodplain Cleanup is Planned; EPA Wants Your Input

## Blue River PCB Site

Milltown, U.S.A.

August Training 2015

### Contact information

You can contact EPA staff involved with community outreach and the cleanup process.

### EPA office contacts

You may call the EPA office toll-free, 555-888-2665,  
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., weekdays

#### Sandy Science

Project Manager  
[science.sandy@epa.gov](mailto:science.sandy@epa.gov)  
555-888-0099

#### Debbie Discuss

Community Involvement Coordinator  
[discuss.debbie@epa.gov](mailto:discuss.debbie@epa.gov)  
555-888-5309

### More Information

#### On the Web

[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

### Information repositories with site-related documents

Milltown Main Library  
500 Main St.  
Milltown

Green Memorial Library  
110 W. Main St.  
Cattle Valley

Bloomville City Library  
213 Jackson Ave  
Bloomville

*Note: This is a mock site  
developed for training  
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similarities to real places  
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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is in the early stages of developing cleanup options for contaminated soil in the frequently flooded areas along the Blue River. Many properties used by residents, farmers, and businesses in the Blue River floodplain will be affected by EPA's cleanup decisions.

### EPA wants to hear from you

People living, working and playing in the Blue River floodplain will have a say in how the cleanup is carried out. EPA expects to formally propose a cleanup plan for the Blue River floodplain for public comment in 2016.

Before then EPA wants to:

- Understand the community's values about the current state of the floodplain and desires for future conditions and uses.
- Obtain feedback on the tradeoffs that may come with the cleanup options.
- Identify what other information is needed by the community.

EPA will give residents and other interested people an opportunity to discuss what concerns they may have about a long-term cleanup. Their comments may influence what cleanup is proposed and selected for the Blue River floodplain.

EPA will schedule several interactive small group sessions throughout the summer and fall starting in August. To give people convenient times and places to participate, EPA will hold daytime, evening and weekend sessions in different locations near the Blue River. Invitations will be sent to all of the floodplain landowners. Keep an eye out for this invitation because we want to hear from you. You may also call Debbie Discuss, EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator, at 555-888-5309 to meet individually with an EPA representative or to learn more about the meetings.

### What properties may qualify for cleanup

The entire floodplain is not equally contaminated and some areas may not require cleanup. EPA is currently evaluating which floodplain areas may need work. Cleanup of the Blue River is under way and is being done in segments starting upstream of Reach 1, which runs through the former Paper, Inc. facility (see map on Page 3). This ongoing river work will continue upstream to downstream. Cleanup of the floodplain areas will occur during or shortly after the adjacent river work.

There are about 3,000 acres in the frequently flooded areas along the Blue River. Land use in the floodplain is varied. Residents, farmers and businesses are affected. Large areas in the floodplain are undeveloped and support natural ecosystems. EPA wants to hear community opinions about current and future land uses and environmental conditions.

## Floodplain cleanup options

The cleanup options being considered are soil removal and disposal, soil cover and land-use management.

### Soil removal and disposal

This option involves digging up contaminated soil and replacing it with clean soil. The contaminated soil would be transported off-site for disposal at a landfill.

Heavy equipment like backhoes, bulldozers and front-end loaders would be used to dig up contaminated soil and put it on trucks to be hauled to licensed landfills. Existing vegetation may need to be removed. Clean soil is typically placed to re-grade the properties. The area would then be replanted, but the current ecosystem would be affected. Because contaminated soil is removed from the site permanently, long-term monitoring in those floodplain areas may not be needed.

### Soil cover

This option involves placing a cover of clean material over contaminated soil. Covers help keep people and animals from coming into contact with the contamination. They also stop rainwater and wind from washing or blowing away the contaminated soil.

Heavy equipment would be used to construct the cover. Clean soil is the most likely cover material, but other materials may be used. Existing vegetation may need to be removed. The cover would be replanted with suitable vegetation, but the current ecosystem would be affected. Soil covers need to be monitored and may need to be maintained in order to retain their long-term effectiveness.

### Land-use management

Land-use management limits people's use and development of contaminated land. It can be effective at keeping areas in a natural condition. Land-use management does not keep wildlife away from the contamination.

This option puts legal limits on the use of property, for example conservation easements that protect the current ecosystem. Current state regulation already limits construction and development in the floodplain.

Monitoring is used to make sure that future land use is appropriate.



*Floodplain and bank soil removal – About 30,000 cubic yards of soil and 300 mature trees were removed.*



*Trucks hauling off contaminated soil.*



*Covering road with new asphalt.*



## Tradeoffs between cleanup options

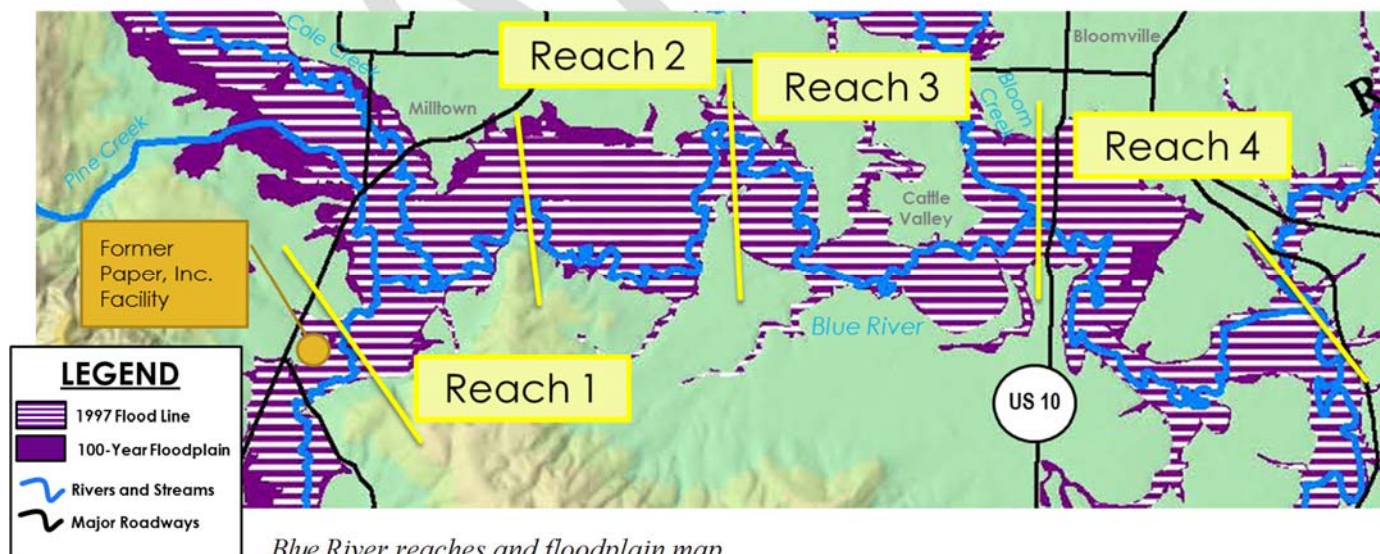
While each cleanup option can protect people and the environment under the right conditions, they all have some tradeoffs or impacts to consider. Some of the differences relate to flexibility for future land use, impacts to the existing ecosystem, time required to implement the cleanup and achieve protection, reliance on monitoring and maintenance, short-term worker and community impacts during construction and cost. The table below shows some of the tradeoffs between

cleanup options. A mixed approach combining the options may be the best balance among the tradeoffs for the floodplain cleanup.

## Next steps

You will be receiving an invitation to attend a discussion session. EPA wants to hear from you. We hope that you will take time to find out more about the cleanup options and share your feedback. You are welcome to contact EPA's office contacts at any time.

| Tradeoffs for Floodplain Cleanup Options |                         |                        |                        |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|  | Cleanup Options         |                        |                        |
| Tradeoffs                                | Land-Use Management     | Soil Cover             | Soil Removal           |
| Flexibility for future land use          | Least flexible          | Somewhat flexible      | Most flexible          |
| Impacts to existing ecosystem            | Least impact            | More impact            | Most impact            |
| Time to implement and achieve protection | Least time to implement | More time to implement | Most time to implement |
| Reliance on monitoring and maintenance   | Most reliance           | Some reliance          | Least reliance         |
| Short-term worker and community impacts  | Least short-term impact | More short-term impact | Most short-term impact |
| Cost                                     | Least cost              | More cost              | Most cost              |





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**Milltown, U.S.A.**  
**(details inside)**