

was reached between USEPA and the Town of Ashland to replace 1,300 feet of the Megunko Road waterline as part of this project. In addition, sediment was removed from several Town of Ashland manholes located between Trolley Brook and Outfall Creek.

The discovery of over 2-½ times more mercury-contaminated sediment than originally estimated (45,500 versus 17,330 cubic yards) and the additional waterline and manhole work only minimally increased the original 1-2 year project schedule. The total duration of the project was 2-½ years (March 1999 - August 2001).

#### **5.2.4 OU #4 Progress**

USEPA conducted a human health risk assessment for OU #4 in 1999, which indicated an unacceptable risk to human health from the consumption of fish related to sustenance fishing. Contamination in Sudbury River sediments is believed to be the primary source of mercury in the fish. USEPA is currently re-evaluating the risk from mercury to people, through the ingestion of fish and to the ecological life with the river system. In the meantime, the current fishing advisory remains in effect. USEPA has posted signs along the river warning against the consumption of contaminated fish.

Data collection activities during 2003 focused on the distribution, transport, and effects associated with mercury and methylmercury within the Sudbury River sediments and aquatic food chain. Because mercury has been shown to both bioaccumulate and biomagnify within aquatic systems, most of the data collected concentrated on mercury levels and effects associated with higher trophic organisms where significant ecological effects have been anticipated. Specifically the data was collected to help clarify the relationship between mercury in sediment, mercury in biota, and to determine the risk to invertebrates, fish, birds and mammals as well as the risk to human receptors exposed to mercury contamination in fish. These studies will supplement previous efforts to collect data and assess risks from mercury contamination within the study area. Data collected through the capture of large fish (bass, perch, and hornpout) will be used to determine the risks to human health from the ingestion of fish from each of the ten reaches that make up the 33-mile Sudbury River study area. The collection of small fish, crayfish, mink, avian species (kingfisher, tree swallows, and marsh birds) as well as sediment and surface water will allow for an assessment of the ecological impacts from mercury within the river, and as present in the four major habitats within the study area: reservoirs, fast flowing reaches, slow flowing reaches and the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. This data will be used to finalize an assessment of the human health and ecological risks posed by mercury within the river system. If an unacceptable risk is identified, an evaluation of possible remedial alternatives and a proposed remedy will follow.

### **5.3 STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS FIVE-YEAR REVIEW**

In the previous Five-Year Review, a list of recommended actions for continued O&M of the remedies and associated features was developed. These issues are presented in Table 3. Table 3 also includes a description of how the issues have been resolved.

Site:	MA 01820
Break:	2.2
Other:	09762

**FIVE-YEAR REVIEW REPORT  
FOR  
NYANZA CHEMICAL WASTE DUMP SUPERFUND SITE**

**Ashland, Massachusetts**

April 2004

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