



POMPTON LAKES WORKS SITE
POMPTON LAKE STUDY AREA DREDGING/REMOVAL
RECENT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS – APRIL 2017

Introduction

In December 2015, EPA prepared a document that included “*Recent Questions & Answers*” (Q&As) regarding what was then the upcoming dredging/soil removal work in the Pompton Lake Study Area for 2016. In response to questions raised at the recent Public Availability session on March 30, 2017; EPA has prepared an updated version of the Q&As as provided below. Questions raised at the March 30th Public Availability session are answered as well as carrying over several of the Q&As from December 2015.

Q&As

1. What work will be completed in 2017 as part of the environmental clean-up of Pompton Lake by Chemours?

ANSWER: The Pompton Lake Study Area work scheduled to be completed in 2017 includes hydraulic dredging of a 36-acre area known as the Acid Brook Delta (ABD), processing and off-site disposal of contaminated sediment and placement of an ecological layer over the ABD, Area A and the Island Area. Completion of this work per the projected schedule is contingent on factors such as weather, unanticipated site conditions, etc. Mechanical dredging of contaminated sediment in Area A and the Island Area (in addition to other work) was completed in 2016.

2. Will the Island Area be restored?

ANSWER:

In general, the aquatic resources in/around the Island Area will be restored through a combination of efforts that include:

- Re-establishing a beneficial substrate habitat for aquatic organisms by placement of a layer of sand across the footprint of the remedial areas. The ecological layer will not be placed any higher than the existing sediment bed elevation. This ecological habitat layer (i.e., ecological-layer) will provide a desirable substrate habitat for aquatic benthic organisms; and
- Enhancing desirable vegetation establishment through plantings.

Although avoidance and minimization practices were employed to the extent practicable; the implementation of the dredging disturbed wetlands within the Island Area. For resources within the wetlands that could not be avoided, and if there are unanticipated transition area/riparian zone impacts, restoration will be conducted as replacement in-kind and will include the following elements:

- Re-establishment of wetlands in areas of disturbance due to implementation of the dredging.

- Re-establishment and enhancement of existing transition area and riparian zone habitats that may be disturbed.

Final wetland restoration designs have taken into account existing soil characteristics, hydrology, surface elevations, micro-topography, and plant community composition/distribution/structure, among other conditions or factors that may influence restoration success. Re-established resources will be designed to provide a wetland ecology equal to or greater than that which was disturbed. Wetland transition areas will also be restored to existing conditions following remedial activities.

3. Can invasive species of fish (e.g. carp) removed from the 36-acre area of the Acid Brook Delta (ABD) subject to the fish relocation not be relocated in Pompton Lake?

ANSWER: Chemours is performing the fish relocation within the 36-acre area of the ABD pursuant to a permit issued by the NJDEP. There are provisions in the NJDEP permit to remove those invasive species of fish caught during the relocation effort and not relocate them within Pompton Lake.

4. How are concerns about boat traffic near the work area being addressed?

ANSWER: Access to the lake by residents in the areas where the turbidity containment Systems (i.e. turbidity curtain) are installed (which demarcate the boundary where dredging will be performed) will be limited. The turbidity curtain is manufactured to be in compliance with United States Coast Guard requirements for visibility and the top of the turbidity curtain is bright orange. Boundaries are clearly marked with lights and high visibility buoys. Chemours' contractor, Severson Environmental Services has added additional lighting to the curtain where the manufacturer has provided pockets for the lights. Several pencil buoys along the curtain will be installed as well.

Boaters on the lake are asked to be mindful of the speed limit on the lake. With respect to night time boaters, the town ordinance restricts operation of motor or power boats on the lake to one hour after sunset.

5. Where will contaminated sediment be collected and staged?

ANSWER: The hydraulic dredging unit is capable of removing 50 to 120 cubic yards per hour (cy/hr.) on average. Pipeline transport of the dredged sediment will be via slurry using high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe and will be used as a direct route from the hydraulic dredge to the staging/processing area. The processing/staging area is the same as utilized during the 2016 soil excavation/sediment dredging although the work area is reconfigured for the 2017 hydraulic dredging. Hydraulically dredged sediment from the ABD will be processed via sequential solidification and compression to prepare the material for transport from the lakeshore staging area.

6. Will contaminated soil/sediment be removed from the Borough of Pompton Lakes?

ANSWER: Yes, impacted soil and sediment will be processed and shipped to an off-site licensed facility for final disposal.

7. How is the liquid that is going to be de-watered during the dredging process being treated?

ANSWER: Water from the dredged sediment will be collected and processed pursuant to the requirements of a modified permit that will be issued by the NJDEP. The specific requirements of the modified permit are being discussed with NJDEP. The permit issued by NJDEP for this year's dredging will incorporate modifications proposed by Chemours that include increased filtration and chemical treatment to address dissolved metals and total organic carbon (TOC) prior to discharge. The modifications are based on the observations and results of the 2016 sediment dredging operations. The water treatment system proposed to be installed (subject to NJDEP approval to requested permit modifications) will handle all decontamination water, rainwater coming in contact with the stored sediments, and filtrate (i.e. the de-watered liquid) from the filter presses.

8. Will there be processing of sediment 24 hours/per day, 7 days per week?

ANSWER: No. Sediment processing will occur during established work hours (7AM to 7PM, Monday through Friday). Chemours would notify the Borough of Pompton Lakes and EPA of the need for work on the weekends and EPA would, in turn, notify the community as was done during the 2016 work. Noise will be monitored pursuant to the Corrective Measures Implementation Work Plan dated April 2016, which can be found on EPA's website.

9. Will there be security on-site during non-working hours?

ANSWER: Security will be maintained during non-working hours by a firm retained by Chemours as well as by the Pompton Lakes Police Department during their routine patrols in the area.

10. Can there be prior notification if the contractor performing the dredging is working on a given Saturday?

ANSWER: Make up work days on Saturday are a possibility should delays in the work schedule occur due to inclement weather or other reasons. Chemours will notify EPA, who will in turn notify the community when work would be performed on a Saturday. However, situations could arise (e.g. unanticipated adverse weather) that could result in the notification of Saturday work to be short. Best efforts will be made to avoid a short notification period prior to any Saturday work being performed.

11. Will there be government oversight available to monitor the environmental clean-up in the Pompton Lake Study Area?

ANSWER: EPA and/or the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will provide field oversight during the implementation of the environmental clean-up of the Pompton Lake Study Area. EPA will continue to be available to address concern/complaints from the community. In addition, EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator (Pat Seppi) and Project Manager (Perry Katz) would continue to serve as points-of-contact should issues arise.

The Passaic County Health Department as well as the Borough of Pompton Lakes Environmental Officer have also supplemented EPA's oversight efforts with field visits/inspections during the 2016 work and will continue to do so in 2017.

12. What is the truck route?

ANSWER: The traffic route for trucks traveling to or from the Pompton Lakes Works site (which is where trucks will be staged) is as follows:

- South along Cannonball Road;
- West along Wanaque Avenue;
- South along Ringwood Avenue;
- East along Paterson-Hamburg Turnpike to Terhune Drive (US 202);
- North on Terhune Drive (US 202) to Lakeside Avenue;
- West on Lakeside Ave. over the bridge, and
- West on Lakeview Ave. to the site entrance.

The route designated for trucks hauling contaminated sediment to the landfill for disposal is as follows:

- East on Lakeside Ave. to the stop at the bridge;
- East on Lakeside Ave. over the bridge to Terhune Ave. (US 202);
- South on Terhune Ave. (US 202) to Paterson-Hamburg Turnpike;
- North on Paterson-Hamburg Turnpike; and
- West on Paterson-Hamburg Turnpike to I-287 Interchange 53.

13. How will the concern about idling trucks at the site be addressed?

ANSWER: Chemours routinely reinforced to the trucking firm hauling material off-site during the 2016 work to have their drivers minimize/eliminate idling their trucks. In addition, a representative from the trucking firm was routinely on-site to monitor truck idling as well as ensure that there was no line-up of trucks on Lakeside Avenue waiting to enter the work area. A representative of Severson Environmental Services, Chemours' contractor, also monitored truck idling. In addition, Chemours personnel as well as EPA randomly followed trucks to ensure the approved truck route was followed. EPA spot checked areas off-site that residents conveyed were locations that trucks were idling during the early morning hours prior to entering the project site. Residents who witness trucks related to the site work idling at locations off-site should contact the Pompton Lakes Police Department directly. The Pompton Lakes Police Department will continue to monitor the area and respond to complaints of idling vehicles.