



Contacts and Additional Resources

If you would like more information or have comments/concerns, please refer to the following list for the appropriate contact or resource location.

Inquiries & Concerns

Xcel Energy 24/7 Call Center: 1-800-895-4999

If you are experiencing a health emergency, call 911

Additional Information

Xcel Energy: www.xcelenergy.com/ashlandproject

Recorded updates (Monday-Friday): 1-866-203-9013

DNR: dnr.wi.gov/topic/brownfields/ashland.html

EPA: www.epa.gov/region5/sites/ashland

Questions

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Scott Hansen 312-886-1999 (hansen.scott@epa.gov)

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Jamie Dunn 715-635-4049 (james.dunn@wi.gov)

Ashland County Health Department
Cyndi Zach 715-682-7028 (cyndi@hsd.co.ashland.wi.us)

Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Anke Hildebrandt 608-264-9879 (anke.hildebrandt@wi.gov)

A full information repository can also be found at:

Vaughn Public Library
502 Main St. Ashland, WI

Bad River Library
Odanah, WI

Red Cliff Library
88840 Church Rd. Bayfield, WI

eNews Subscription

Sign up on this website to receive emails when new information is available on the project.



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May 2014

Ashland Project

What to Expect

INFORMATION REGARDING MILESTONES DURING PHASE I OF THE ASHLAND PROJECT

The Ashland Project site was a highly industrialized area that included a manufactured gas plant, historic waste fill site, lumbering, and railroad operations. Cleanup of the area is scheduled to begin in May 2014. Phase I will address the on-land area, including the upper bluff and Kreher Park. The area being described as "Kreher Park" does not include the RV park, boat launch, and marina. Those areas are unaffected and will remain open. Phase II of the project will address the near-shore sediments and will take place at a later date.

Containment Walls Will Create Environmental Barrier

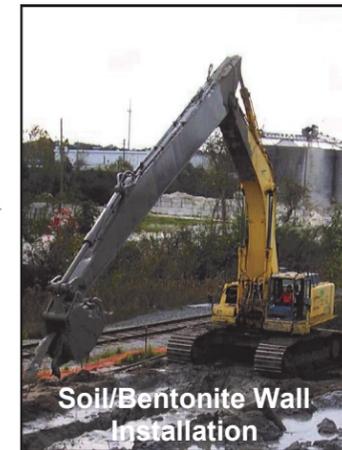
In late May 2014, crews will begin construction on two types of containment walls in Kreher Park. A soil/bentonite wall (named for the type of soil used to create the wall) will be placed on the east, west and south sides of the park; a steel shoreline wall will be put into place along the north side (see the map on page 2).

Construction will begin in the northeast corner of the park. Trackhoes will dig a trench along the border of the park,

then fill it with a soil/bentonite mixture creating a barrier to prevent contamination from entering or leaving the area.

As crews move south and west, another crew will begin work (moving from east to west) on a steel shoreline wall that will be primarily below ground. Work on the walls should be completed by August or September 2014.

Crews will operate 6 days a week, 10 hours per day.

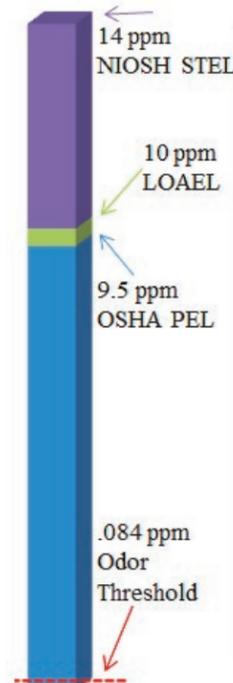


Soil/Bentonite Wall Installation



Sheet pile Shoreline Wall Installation

Safety vs. Odor Threshold for Naphthalene



NIOSH STEL: National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health's (NIOSH) Short-Term Exposure Limit; a 15-minute exposure which should not be exceeded at any time during a workday.

OSHA PEL: Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Permissible Exposure Limit expressed as a time-weighted average; the concentration of a substance to which most workers can be exposed without adverse effect averaged over a normal 8-h workday or a 40-h workweek.

LOAEL: Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level is the lowest concentration found by experiment or observation that caused an adverse health effect.

Odors and Air Monitoring

There will be tar, asphalt or mothball odors present near the cleanup site; however, **the human nose is capable of smelling these chemicals at levels far below the concentrations that are associated with health impacts.** So being able to smell these chemicals does not necessarily indicate air quality issues at the site.

Several engineering controls including misting, covering soils, foam, and discrete excavation will all be used to minimize odors and prevent concentrations from reaching any of the occupational limits. Additionally, a comprehensive system of air monitors will be installed around the site to ensure that air quality standards are maintained.

More information on the Air Monitoring Plan (AMP) can be found on the AMP Factsheet leaflet or on the NSPW website. The Department of Health Services (DHS) may be looking for people willing to keep an odor log to help DHS evaluate odor controls. Contact DHS (information on page 4) for an odor log if you are interested.

Community meetings will be held throughout the project. You can be added to the mailing list to get notified of upcoming meetings by emailing John Robinson at john.robinson@wi.gov

Construction of Treatment Facility

As containment walls are built the site is ready for further preparation. This includes laying blacktop pads, utility work and on-site road establishment.

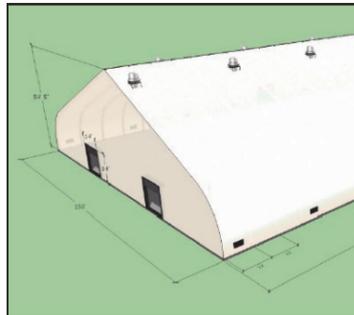
As containment walls are built, crews will move to the west side of the site. During this time, blacktop pads will be installed to house the Allsite structure, thermal desorption unit, a treated soil storage area and a temporary wastewater treatment system (WTS). Crews will also make haul roads within the site for transporting soils from excavation areas to the Allsite structure.

The diagram below shows the areas where contaminated soil must be removed (shaded in red). The eight red dots located around the outer edge of the site indicate the locations of the air monitors. The monitors will be installed before crews begin installing the bulkhead and soil/bentonite walls in order to collect baseline air quality information for the area. Those

baseline readings, paired with baseline readings for noise and vibrations in the area will be compared to readings during remediation activities.

The fence line on the west end of the site will be mobile as crews reach that area to install the containment wall. The fence is depicted as a dotted black line in the diagram below.

On site, many large pieces of machinery will be mobilized, as crews will be working on the containment walls, while others lay blacktop and establish roadways. It is anticipated that these activities will take a month to complete. This stage is currently scheduled for June-July 2014.



The Allsite structure will be a 150 ft.-by-300 ft. structure that will house all of the soil handling and sorting operations before thermal treatment. On-site dump trucks will be hauling soils into the building and off-site dump trucks will be hauling debris away from the site that cannot be treated.



Detailed information including site layouts, haul routes, road closures, and utility disruptions can be found online at: www.xcelenergy.com/ashlandproject

Excavation and Thermal Treatment of Soils

To remove contamination, soils need to be dug up and processed through a thermal unit. Treated soils will be sampled to confirm they meet the cleanup standards before being placed back onsite.

Around late June or July 2014, excavation is expected to begin and last through the end of the year or January 2015. Excavation will take place in a relatively condensed area of the site that has the most contamination (identified in red on the page 2 diagram).

To minimize odors and dust, crews will be utilizing discrete excavation techniques. This technique keeps excavation areas as small as possible at any given time so the exposed soils can be managed more effectively. In addition crews will keep soils moist to control dust, use foams to reduce odors and keep untreated soil piles covered or within the Allsite structure.

Air quality within the Allsite structure will be maintained by frequent air exchanges to ensure the safety of those working within the facility.

Debris that is too large to be reworked for treatment will be hauled off-site to a licensed landfill in Duluth, Minnesota.

Once treated, soils will be staged and sampled to ensure they meet established cleanup standards for the site. Soils not meeting the performance standards after initial treatment will either undergo retreatment or transportation and disposal at a landfill.

Excavation will take place 5 days per week, 10 hours per day.



TREATING SOILS: THERMAL UNIT



Thermal desorption will be used to treat contaminated soils at the site. It will take approximately four weeks to assemble and startup the unit. During this time the operator will be testing the unit. Once fully operational, the unit will treat soil by heating it up to remove the contamination. Once at peak performance, the unit will be operating 24 hours per day 7 days per week during the remediation. The emission stacks will be monitored and operating under requirements from the EPA.

Permit Equivalency

This project must comply with all applicable state, federal and local laws, including State of Wisconsin:

- ✓ Air Pollution Control Operation Requirements,
- ✓ Construction Storm Water Requirements,
- ✓ Solid Waste Management,
- ✓ Pollution Discharge Elimination,
- ✓ Requirements and Notification of New Well Construction Requirements.