

# **CONTAMINATED SEDIMENT MONITORING AND CLEANUP IN THE RAISIN RIVER AREA OF CONCERN MONROE, MI**

## **What's New?**

- **Raisin River – Addressing the Legacy of Contaminated Sediment**
- **The Great Lakes Legacy Act – Funding the Action Plan**
- **Upcoming Activities and Public Outreach**

## **Raisin River - The Contaminated Sediment Problem**

From 1998 through 2003, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) Great Lakes National Program Office and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) conducted post clean-up sampling for PCBs after the Ford Motor Company removed approximately 20,000 cubic yards of the most contaminated sediments in 1997. Sampling found that undesirable levels of poly-chlorinated bi-phenyls (PCBs) remained in the river sediments and impacted of quality of the environment.

This sediment issue has no impact on the quality of drinking water. The City of Monroe is required annually to test the drinking water by the MDEQ for PCBs which has **never** been detected in water drawn into our intakes. Source water is drawn from the Detroit River confluence, not the River Raisin confluence. It would be extremely unlikely that River Raisin water would be drawn into Monroe's intakes since the water would need to work its way upstream over 3.5 miles and be drawn in 20' below the water surface.

MDEQ and the U.S. EPA have been pursuing options for additional sediment remediation to address the remaining problem. More information on the Raisin River Area of Concern is available at <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/aoc/rvraisin.html>

## **The Great Lakes Legacy Act – Funding the Action Plan**

Contaminated sediments in Great Lakes harbors and tributaries contribute to a wide variety of problems, including contaminated fish and wildlife, bird and animal deformities, and threats to human health. To help address the contaminated sediment problem within the Great Lakes, The Great Lakes Legacy Act of 2002 (GLLA) authorized \$270 million in funding over five years, beginning in fiscal year 2004, to specifically assist with the cleanup of contaminated sediment in America's 30 Areas of Concern (AOCs.) In order to be eligible for Legacy Act funding, proposed projects must lie within a U.S. AOC, and a non-federal sponsor must provide a minimum of 35% of the project cost.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has requested \$5,600,000 in GLLA funding to be combined with \$3,000,000 of Clean Michigan Initiative funding to remediate 94,000 cubic yards of sediments contaminated within the Raisin River AOC. The U.S. EPA is currently evaluating this proposal.

More information on the Great Lakes Legacy Act is available at:

<http://www.epa.gov/glla/>

### **Sediment Assessment and Remedial Planning 2009 and Beyond**

As part of the evaluation process for the proposed sediment remediation project, U.S. EPA conducted an intensive, sediment assessment survey in the Raisin River in June 2009. The goal of this survey was to collect information to evaluate the extent of contamination, along with data to allow MDEQ and U.S. EPA to develop a final engineering design. Sediment samples were collected at over 100 sampling locations, and analyzed for chemical contamination and engineering properties. This data will be utilized to develop a final strategy and engineering design plans for addressing the remaining sediment contamination.



Raisin River: 2009 Sampling Locations



Sediment Sampling on the R/V Mudpuppy

### **Upcoming Activities**

The next steps for the Raisin River include evaluation of data, remedial design planning and public outreach. The current project goal is to complete all sampling and design activities required to get the site ready for remediation in Summer/Fall 2010. Final decisions regarding GLLA and CMI funding for the project are expected in late 2009.

#### **Tentative Schedule**

- August 2009 – Preliminary Data Available
- August 17, 2009 – U.S. EPA and Michigan DEQ coordination with Monroe City Council
- October 2009 – Preliminary Design Available
- October 2009 – Public Information Session
- January 2010 – Final Design Available
- January 2010 – CMI and GLLA Funding Decision
- Fall/Summer 2010 – Construction Begins