

Grasse River Update: The Proposed Cleanup Plan

Massena, New York
October 2012

For 20 years, Alcoa has worked cooperatively with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other stakeholder groups to address PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) contamination in the lower Grasse River, between the Power Canal and the St. Lawrence. The overall goal of the project is to reduce PCB levels in fish and other organisms in the river for the long-term protection of human health and the environment.

On October 1, 2012, EPA released the Proposed Plan for the Grasse River. The plan calls for the dredging of some near-shore sediments, capping in the main channel, and armored capping in ice-scour prone sections of the river. The plan is estimated to cost approximately \$243 million, take two years to design and an estimated four construction seasons to implement.

The release of the Proposed Plan opened up a public comment period, which will run through November 15. Members of the public may submit written comments on the plan, attend public information sessions to learn more, and/or attend public meetings to voice their

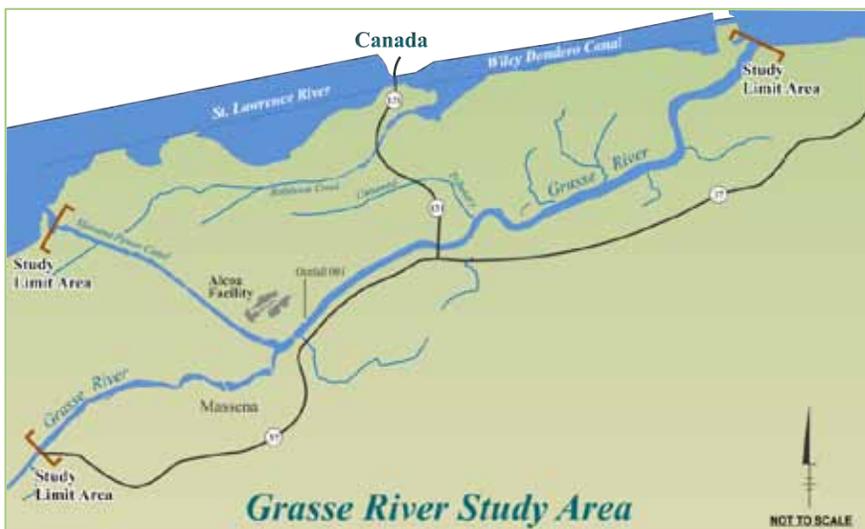
opinion on the cleanup plan (see the green box at the bottom of this page for locations of the scheduled public meetings and information sessions).

Following the public comment period, EPA will review all the comments it receives, then issue a Record of Decision (ROD), which will be the final plan Alcoa must implement.

The EPA selected the proposed remedy from 10 options that were evaluated in the Analysis of Alternatives Report (AA Report), a science-based document that was generated by Alcoa under the direction of the EPA and with input from other stakeholders. The alternatives ranged from taking no further action at no cost, to dredging the entire seven-mile section of river at a cost of more than \$1.2 billion, with several in the \$200 million to \$300 million range. Years of study went into developing the AA Report, including several research projects, consultation with scientific experts, and several pilot projects to evaluate how various options would work. Details of this work, as well as the history of the project, can be found at:

www.thegrasseriver.com

The entire PRAP document can be found at: http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/aluminumcompany/pdf/AlcoaGrasseRiverProposedPlan_100112.pdf, or reviewed at the Massena Public Library, Akwesasne Library, or St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Environment Division (by appointment).



The focus of this project is the seven-mile stretch of the lower river between the Massena Power Canal and St. Lawrence River.

Public Meetings:

- Monday, October 29, 2012, 7 pm, Office for the Aging – Seniors Dining Hall, 29 Business Park Rd, Akwesasne, NY 13655
- Tuesday, October 30, 2012, 7 pm, Massena Town Hall – Board Room #30, 60 Main St, Massena, NY 13662

Public Information Sessions:

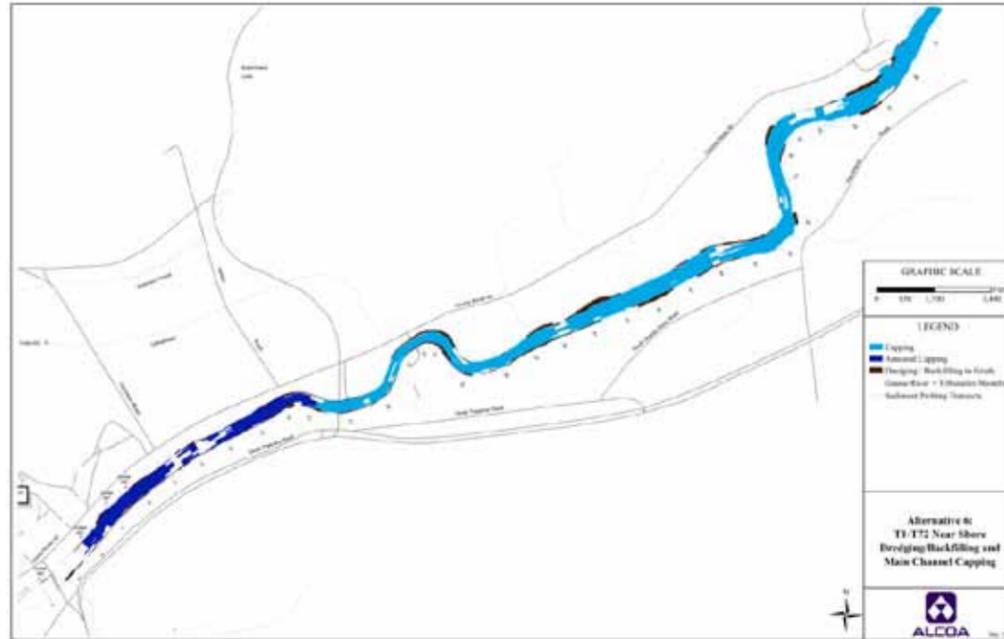
- Monday, October 29, 2012, 1 - 3 pm, St. Regis Mohawk School, 385 Church St, Akwesasne, NY, 13655
- Tuesday, October 30, 2012, 1 - 3 pm, Massena Town Hall – Board Room #30, 60 Main St, Massena, NY 13662





Overview of the Cleanup Plan

The Proposed Plan presents EPA's preferred cleanup option for the Grasse River, as depicted in the figure below. In the Proposed Plan this cleanup option is identified as Alternative 6. EPA's preferred option includes dredging sediment from the near shore area of the river (shown in brown on the map below), backfilling the dredged area to grade, placing an armored cap over an area in the upper two miles of the main channel of the river (shown in dark blue), and placing capping material over a five-mile stretch of the river downstream of the armored cap (shown in light blue).



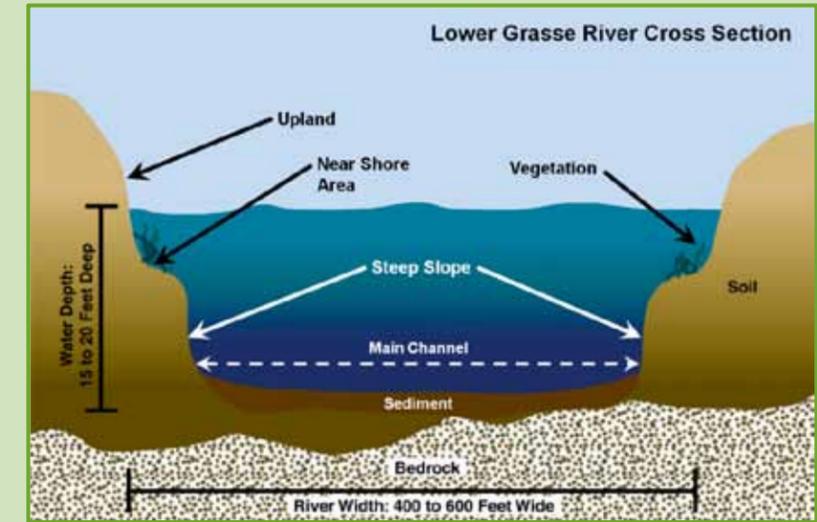
As stated in the Proposed Plan, Alternative 6 was selected by EPA for the river cleanup

What Does It Mean?

NEAR SHORE The area between the upland and where the gentle slope along the shoreline meets the steep slope of the main channel walls. In general, near shore areas are five feet or less in water depth.

CAP A mixture of sand and topsoil placed over contaminated material to prevent PCBs from moving from the sediments into the water and fish.

ARMORED CAP A layer of large rocks that is placed over the sand and topsoil cap where necessary to prevent the cap from being moved or disturbed.



Alcoa's View

Alcoa believes that a capping remedy is protective of human health and the environment, is effective over the long term, and complements the natural recovery already occurring in the river. However, after nearly two decades of expert study and stakeholder input, Alcoa wants the process to move forward and will work with the EPA to implement the recommendation contained in the Proposed Plan.

Community support and input are critical to keeping the process moving forward. If you want to comment on the proposed Grasse River cleanup plan, please attend one of the public meetings or submit written comments to the EPA by November 15 at the address on the back page.

Cleanup Plan Specifics

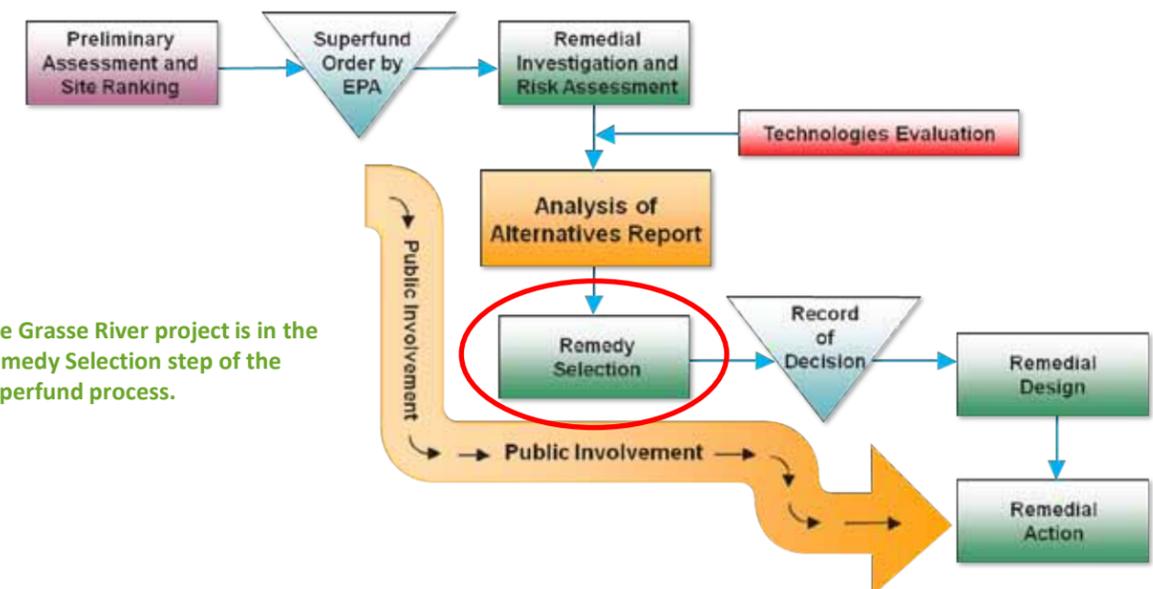
The cleanup plan includes these elements:

- ✓ **HEALTH & SAFETY** A community health and safety plan will be prepared to protect the community while the project is being implemented.
- ✓ **NEAR-SHORE DREDGING** Sediments containing PCBs at concentrations of one part per million (ppm) or more will be dredged and clean material will be placed in the dredged areas to restore the shoreline. The amount to be dredged is estimated to equal about 109,000 cubic yards.
- ✓ **CAPPING** An estimated 225 acres of sediments in the main channel of the river will be capped with a one-foot thick cap composed of sand and topsoil (about five miles).
- ✓ **ARMORED CAPPING** An additional layer of large rocks will be placed over the cap over 59 acres in the upper two miles of the river, where the sediments have the potential to be impacted by ice jams that typically occur only about once a decade.
- ✓ **DISPOSAL OF CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS** Dredged material will be dried and disposed either at Alcoa's permitted, on-site secure landfill or a permitted off-site landfill.
- ✓ **HABITAT RECONSTRUCTION** A plan to reconstruct impacted fish and other wildlife habitat will be developed and implemented.
- ✓ **MONITORING** Alcoa will be responsible for long-term monitoring of river fish, water and sediments, under supervision of EPA, to determine when interim and long-term cleanup goals are reached.



Example of an Armored Cap

The Superfund Process



The Grasse River project is in the Remedily Selection step of the Superfund process.



Get involved! Get more info!



- ✓ Browse Alcoa's Grasse River website at www.thegrasseriver.com
- ✓ Visit information repositories located at the Massena Public Library, EPA New York City offices, and SRMT Environmental Division offices
- ✓ Review the Proposed Plan and provide feedback to EPA at the following address:
Young Chang, EPA Remedial Project Manager
290 Broadway, 20th Floor
New York, NY 10007-1866
- ✓ Attend the upcoming public meetings
- ✓ Contact the following individuals for more information:
Young Chang (EPA Remedial Project Manager) (212) 637-4253
Larry McShea (Alcoa Project Manager) (315) 764-4841 or (724) 337-5458