

Restoring Natural Resources Impacted by the Industri-Plex Superfund Site



Background

The Industri-Plex Superfund Site originated from a 245-acre industrial park in Woburn, Massachusetts. Chemical manufacturing and glue-making operations dating back to the 19th century contaminated the Site with arsenic, lead, and chromium. In addition, the Aberjona River and other surface waters (ponds, streams, wetlands) and soils were contaminated, which in turn impacted the fish and wildlife that rely upon these habitats.

Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program

When hazardous substances enter the environment, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources can be injured. States, American Indian Tribes and the Federal government act as “trustees” for these resources on behalf of the American people. Trustees seek to identify the natural resources injured and determine the extent of the injuries. Trustees then work with the responsible parties to carry out restoration activities, or recover funds from responsible parties to restore natural resources. These damage assessment and restoration efforts are authorized under provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (the Superfund Law) and the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 21E.

Restoration Funds

- Approximately \$3.9 million dollars is available for ecological restoration projects



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The Trustees

The Trustees in this case are the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, represented by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). In a legal settlement, the Trustees received \$4.2 million from the responsible parties for past assessment costs and to plan, oversee, and restore ecological resources that were injured by the release of hazardous substances from the Industri-Plex Superfund Site.

Developing a Restoration Plan with Partners

Trustees are just beginning to work with the public and other partners to develop a plan that identifies projects to restore ecological resources. Local community members can assist the Trustees in developing a draft and final restoration plan by participating in public meetings, providing restoration project ideas and commenting on the draft plan.

Projects To Be Considered

A wide range of projects will be considered, including wetland, pond and stream restoration, native plant restoration and land protection projects. When evaluating projects, Trustees consider proximity to the injured resources along with a variety of other factors such as cost effectiveness, feasibility, and sustainability.

Timeline

Trustees are planning to hold a public information and scoping meeting in October 2018 and intend to publish a Draft Restoration Plan for public review and comment in the fall of 2019. Based upon the comments received, a Final Restoration Plan will be published in the spring of 2020.

Stay Updated

To stay updated on the restoration planning process, visit: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/cleanup/nrd/massachusetts-nrd-case-settlements.html>



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