



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY



Dredging of PCBs Continues at Trowbridge Dam

Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Site
Trowbridge Township, Michigan

April 2026

For more information

Please contact any of the following team members with questions:

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You may also call EPA toll-free:

800-621-8431, weekdays, 9:00 a.m.

to 5:30 p.m.

Webpage

For more details about the site, visit the webpage at:

<https://response.epa.gov/trowbridgedam>

Community Advisory Group

This Community Advisory Group is a forum to share updates about EPA's work in and along the Kalamazoo River. Visit the CAG website for more information or sign up for email notifications at:

<https://www.kalamazoorivercag.org/>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency continues to work with NCR Voyix, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy to remove sediment and soil contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls along the Kalamazoo River near the Trowbridge Dam in Trowbridge Township. PCBs are a group of man-made organic chemicals manufactured from 1929 until production was banned in 1979. PCBs do not readily break down in the environment and can build up in the bodies of fish. This complex project involves removing contaminated sediment, cutting back and stabilizing riverbanks and building a stable river channel around the Trowbridge Dam. This work is taking several years to complete. This important work will help prevent future contamination and erosion, improve water quality and reduce contamination in fish.



Ongoing Work in Your Area

In 2025, dredge barges removed more than 300,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments upstream of the Trowbridge Dam. The barges pumped a mixture of water and sediment through thick plastic pipes for processing downstream of the 26th Street bridge. After separating sediments, site crews treated more than 650 million gallons of water on-site and tested to make sure treatment standards were met prior to discharge to the river. Over the winter, crews removed hundreds of tons of contaminated sediments from the processing area to create additional space. EPA conducts air monitoring during all work.

In 2026, crews will complete dredging and will install temporary sheet piling to facilitate dam removal and lower water levels. Additional access roads will be built for removal of contaminated soil and restoration of riverbanks along with stabilization of the river channel.

Crews continue to access the river at the 26th Street boat launch, which remains closed to the public. Signage remains at upstream launches to restrict access to and encourage exit from the river upstream of the work area.

About the Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Site

This portion of the Kalamazoo River is in a section of the site called Area 4 of Operable Unit 5 at the Allied Paper Inc./Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund site. In 1977, a public health advisory recommended residents not to eat fish caught from the river because of PCBs found in the fish. In 1990, the EPA placed the site on the National Priorities List, a roster of the nation's hazardous waste sites. EPA's cleanup has continued since then. More about EPA's progress can be found at www.epa.gov/superfund/allied-paper-kalamazoo.



Trowbridge Staging Area with the dam in view, where crews stage equipment and materials for ongoing river cleanup.

**ALLIED PAPER/PORTAGE CREEK/KALAMAZOO RIVER SITE:
Dredging of PCBs Continues at Trowbridge Dam**

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