

# Former Plainwell Impoundment Time-Critical Removal Action Project Highlights

## PROJECT SUMMARY

- **Overall Goal:** Stabilize eroding banks along the 1.5-mile stretch of the Kalamazoo River (the former Plainwell Impoundment) and stop the resupply of PCBs
- Site preparation activities began in **April 2007** and the first materials were excavated in **June 2007**
- **More than 120,000 cubic yards** of sediments and soils have been removed across 27 acres
- More than **3,440 loads** of excavated material have been disposed of at three offsite commercial landfills, which involved more than 487,000 roundtrip miles
- Of the excavated material, 19,075 cubic yards were TSCA (classified as more than 50 ppm of PCBs; disposed of at TSCA-certified EQ Wayne Disposal landfill in Belleville) and 97,265 cubic yards were non-TSCA (disposed of at commercial landfills in Marshall and Coopersville)
- A portion of the **former Plainwell Dam and the old powerhouse have been removed** and the river has been returned to a free-flowing state, allowing passage of fish and boats
- Removal activities will be **completed in December 2008**, and replanting will be completed in **spring 2009**
- Monitoring of the project area will continue for **three years**

## THE PROCESS

- The project site was divided into several removal areas, and excavation/work activities started at the uppermost portions of the site and moved downstream
- Work in a removal area was deemed complete when clean-up goals were verified
- As work in a removal area was complete, the team followed up by stabilizing the river banks as necessary then replanting with native trees, shrubs, and grasses
- Environmental monitoring and construction quality assurance testing was conducted on a weekly basis

## THE WATER CONTROL STRUCTURE (WCS)

A key engineering aspect of the project was the construction of the WCS. This temporary structure was built across the western channel of the Plainwell Dam to allow water levels to be lowered in a controlled manner, making excavation easier and more efficient. Construction of the WCS took six months – with the structure declared operational on April 16, 2008. The WCS was operational for five months. Final removal of the WCS is scheduled to be completed in mid-Dec. 2008.

## YEARLY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

### **2007**

- Finished the planned work ahead of schedule; two areas targeted for 2008 were also completed in 2007
- 37,065 cubic yards were removed across nine acres
- Cleanup goals were achieved in all removal areas

### **2008 (to-date)**

- 76,000 cubic yards removed to-date, across 17.5 acres. The project is 92% complete (total volume for the season will be approximately 83,000 cubic yards)
- Cleanup goals were achieved in all removal areas
- Severe rainstorms produced record flooding in Sept. 2008 – the WCS was maintained during the flood and the project will be completed on schedule
- Approximately 900 trees and shrubs and a variety of native grasses have been planted to-date across the project area; restoration and plantings will continue through spring 2009