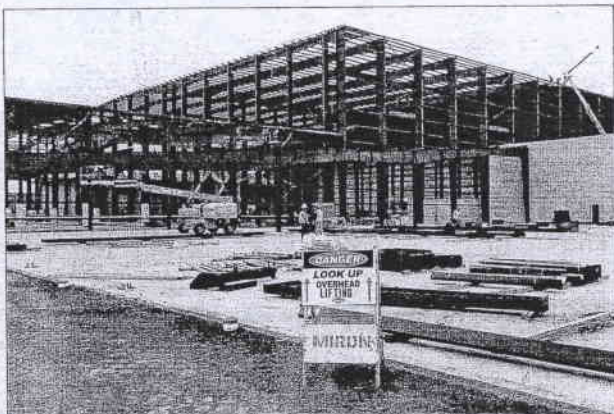


FOCUS: THE ENVIRONMENT



Ongoing construction continues last week on the Fox River Cleanup Group Green Bay Processing Facility in Green Bay. The project is intended to remove and filter PCBs from the river. **Photos by Evan Siegle/Press-Gazette**

Construction continues on PCB processing plant

Project will filter, cap polluted Fox River sediment



Ray Mangunah, project manager for the Fox River Project with Tetra Tech, talks about the ongoing construction of the facility.



Pipes rest on a bed of rock at the facility.

Press-Gazette

The Fox River cleanup project is a nine-year effort aimed at reducing the levels of polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, in the water by dredging the sediment out of the water and capping hard-to-get particles.

The project is expected to remove about 3.8 million cubic yards of river sediment and cap 566 acres of the materials, according to a statement from the Fox River Cleanup group.

PCBs were deposited in the river through the production of carbonless paper. They were banned in 1977 and have been linked to cancer in humans and deformities in wildlife.

The first visible step in the cleanup process is under way with the development of a 242,000 square-foot facility to remove sand and other solids from the dredged sediment at 1611 State Street. Green Bay Construction began in June with clearing and grading of the vacant industrial site, and the work is expected to be completed in early 2009.

More online

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More than 100 workers will be on site when it's operational.

On Monday, workers installed eight membrane filter presses.

The first step in processing the contaminated sediment is removing the sand and coarser material. Much of this sand won't need additional processing, but the remaining finer grained sediment will be pumped to the filter presses, which will squeeze the water out and produce a solid material called filter cake.

The facility will start up in the spring of 2009 when dredging begins to remove sediments from the river.

Materials removed from the water will be loaded on trucks and taken to Veolia's Hickory Meadows landfill in Calumet County.

Water removed through the processing plant will be treated through a series of filters, tested and returned to the river.



Workers install filter press frames to the Fox River Cleanup Group Green Bay Processing Facility in Green Bay.



Work continues on the roof of the facility.