

PCB removal dredges up work for local companies

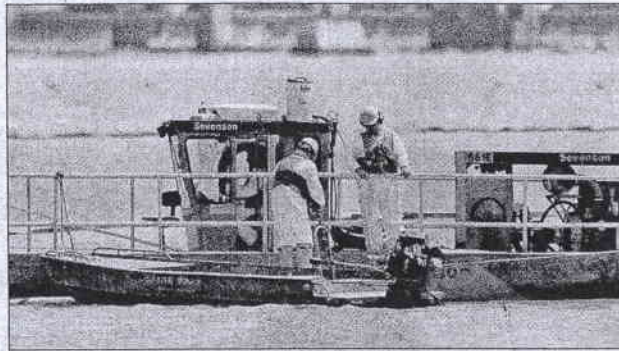
River project has generated state, regional revenue

BY TONY WALTER

twalter@greenbaypressgazette.com

The negative environmental impact of PCBs in the Fox River is providing a positive economic result for many local companies.

The 10-year project that includes removing polychlorinated biphenyl sediment from the Lower Fox, treating it in a process plant under construction, and hauling it to a Calumet County landfill has resulted in \$200 million in contracts to local, regional



Fox River PCB cleanup site workers float on a dredging barge offshore from Fort Howard Avenue in De Pere. **File/Press-Gazette**

and state companies, project officials say.

"We definitely wanted to hire local companies," said Ray Mangrum, project manager for Tetra Tech, the company in charge of the river cleanup project.

"We just bid it out to locals."

Tetra Tech is supervising construction of a 247,800-square-foot processing facility on a 25-acre site on the river's west side, just south of Georgia-Pa-

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cific Corp.'s Broadway plant. Dredging of almost 4 million cubic yards of PCB-contaminated sediment is scheduled to begin in May south of the De Pere dam and eventually cover the river portions north of the dam to the bay.

It will be the largest PCB river remediation project in the world and is estimated to cost about \$600 million, although the paper mills responsible for dumping the PCBs — a waste material from the production of carbonless paper — haven't reached agreement on financial ac-

countability.

The processing center is the first of its kind, something Mangrum said he designed on a napkin.

"Everybody in the world with a major sediment project will come here to see what's going on," said Stephen McGee, project coordinator for Tetra Tech.

They will see that the majority of the work is being provided by local companies and laborers. Mangrum said there will be about 140 workers on site through the winter and 85 to 100 working at the center when it becomes operational.

"I've worked all over the U.S. and these are the best

► See PCB, A-2

PCB costs could reach \$600M PCB/20-plus companies involved

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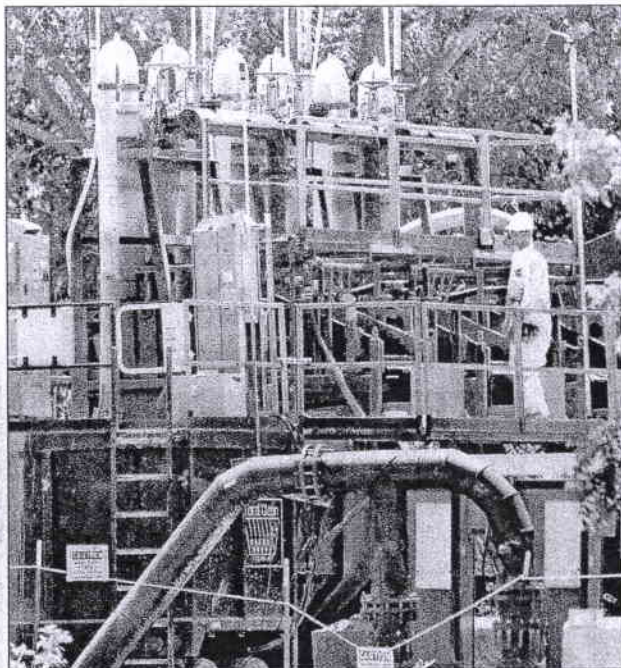
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State officials say the cost of removing and capping PCB-contaminated sediment in the lower Fox River is expected to leave paper mills or their insurance companies with a \$600 million bill.

The original Record of Decision issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources estimated that the removal of 7.6 million cubic yards of polychlorinated biphenyl sediment would cost approximately \$580 million. An amended decision that proposed removing about half the sediment and capping the rest would put the price tag at \$390 million.

With construction of a processing center under way near the Georgia-Pacific Corp. Broadway plant, cost estimates for the 10-year dredging, dewatering, hauling and capping sediment project have risen back to the \$600 million level.

Brown County Circuit Judge Donald Zuidmulder determined earlier this year that the insur-



A Severson worker monitors processing units at the Fox River PCB cleanup site on Fort Howard Avenue in De Pere. **File/Press-Gazette**

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ance companies representing the paper mills that dumped the pollution into the river were responsible for cleanup costs. The decision is expected to be appealed.

Three of the eight companies named responsible parties in polluting the river — Georgia-Pacific; Appleton, formerly Appleton Papers; and NCR Corp. — are taking the lead in keeping the project moving forward, DNR officials say. But the companies have failed to reach agreement on cost responsibility.

On the job

Local companies that have been contracted to prepare the site or help build the Green Bay Processing Center include: Miron Construction, Neenah; Tweet-Garot Mechanical Inc., Green Bay; Gauthier & Sons Construction, Green Bay; Van Ert Electric, Kaukauna; August Winter & Sons, Appleton; STS Consultants, Green Bay; Somerville Inc., Green Bay; Pace Analytical Services, Green Bay; Boldt Construction, Appleton; Metcom, Black Creek; Carew Concrete & Supply, Green Bay; Fabco Equipment Co., Ashwaubenon; Leicht Transfer, Green Bay; Hallron Oil, Green Bay; Northeast Asphalt, Green Bay; Scott DeNoble & Sons Construction, Green Bay; VDH Electric, Green Bay.

Source: Tetra Tech

► From A-1

crews I've ever seen," Mangrum said.

Georgia-Pacific, NCR Corp. and Appleton, formerly Appleton Papers, are three of the eight companies that have been identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as responsible parties for cleanup of the river.

Miron Construction Co. of Neenah is the general contractor on the processing facility project, and JF Brennan Co. of La Crosse has the contract for dredging. More than 20 other local and regional companies have found work in construction of the processing facility. Mangrum said Tetra Tech is close to

selecting a local trucking firm to haul the treated sediment to Veolia's Hickory Meadows landfill in the town of Chilton.

"That will be an important contract," said Bruce Baker, the DNR administrator who is monitoring progress on the lower Fox River project. "That could make or break a trucking company."