

# Particulars of Eighteenmile Creek cleanup probed

**ENVIRONMENT:** *2nd leg of creek corridor cleanup still a few years away, according to EPA.*

**BY RACHEL FUERSCHBACH**

rachel.fuerschbach  
@lockportjournal.com

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency hosted a public meeting at the Niagara County fairgrounds on Wednesday to give community members an opportunity to ask questions about the continuing cleanup of the Eighteenmile Creek Corridor Site in the city.

The second phase of cleanup at the Superfund-listed, inactive hazardous waste site is being planned now. EPA has proposed

dredging sediment in the creek corridor, a one-mile swath between the Erie Barge Canal at Clinton Street and Harwood Street, and excavating contaminated soil at adjacent properties including Upson Park, White Transportation, the former United Paperboard Company and the site of the old Flintkote plant. PCBs, lead and other contaminants are to be removed.

At the meeting, a couple of residents asked about signage to warn recreational fishers against eating fish caught in the creek between

Lockport and Olcott, the downstream end point of a larger Eighteenmile Creek Superfund site.

Signs will be posted along the length of the contaminated area, by the county health department, according to Peter Mannino, chief of the Western New York Remediation Section and Superfund.

Mark Devine, the city's 3rd Ward alderman, inquired whether dredging of contaminated sediment in the creek bed would be done wet or dry. Mannino said the plan is to do it dry; a dike will be set up and the creek flow will be diverted.

See **CLEANUP**, Page 5A

## CLEANUP...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Alderman at Large Joe O'Shaughnessy asked about the phase two cleanup timeline.

According to Mannino, EPA is accepting public comments about its proposal

until Sept. 30, after which it will publish a "Record of Decision" showing all public comments and EPA's decision which specific cleanup alternative it will pursue. Then, the alternative will be designed / engineered, a process that could take between 1 1/2 to 3 years, he said. Remediation work will follow

completion of the design.

At the meeting, Devine tried going to bat for two homeowners who were not included in EPA's phase-one buyout/resettlement program for Water Street residents living on contaminated property.

Last year, five homeowners on Water Street close to

the Flintkote property were resettled, and their properties were demolished, on a finding of land contamination. Devine asked EPA to try and do something for two others who were not relocated, due to EPA's finding that their properties were not contaminated. Mannino indicated contamination is

a requirement for a government buyout.

EPA's phase-two cleanup proposal can be read at [www.epa.gov/superfund/eighteen-mile-creek](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/eighteen-mile-creek); a hard copy is available at Lockport Public Library; and hard copies will be mailed on request to Michael Basile, EPA community involvement coordinator,

at 551-4410.

Community members can weigh in on the proposal in writing until Sept. 30. Mail comments to Jaclyn Kondrk, remedial project manager, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 290 Broadway, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10007; or email them to [kondrk.jaclyn@epa.gov](mailto:kondrk.jaclyn@epa.gov)