

Money Point Cleanup Fact Sheet

Why was Money Point the first site chosen for sediment cleanup?

This is one of the most contaminated areas of the river bottom.

How much of the river is being restored?

- Phase 1 - (June 1 - Oct. 30, 2009) - Seven acres including wetlands and forested shore are being restored to provide critical habitat for the river. About 800 cubic yards of contaminated sediments are being dredged to reduce cancer in fish.
- Phase 2 - Another 12 acres and 80,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments will be dredged by 2012.

How deep are you dredging?

Phase 1 - 12" maximum depth

Phase 2 - Up to 6 feet depth

How did the goo get there?

During its heyday, Money Point was home to several large wood treatment plants now out of business, including Eppinger and Russell, which used black tar called creosote to treat lumber. After many years of operation, creosote was found on the bottom of the river and now we are cleaning it up. The pollution generated by this progress has created a biological deadzone at Money Point.

Where is the goo going?

The goo will be dredged and then shipped by barge to Port Weanack on the James River. There it will be unloaded and trucked for disposal at either Charles City landfill (two-thirds of the material) or Purgo (one-third of the material) for thermal treatment, which destroys the contamination.

What's the cost?

Phase 1 - \$1.3 million funded by multiple public and private partners.

Phase 2 - About \$5 million is in hand. The amount of any additional funds needed will be finalized during final design.

How will you know the project is successful?

- Cancer in mummichogs is reduced to background levels and life on the bottom of Money Point returns. Mummichogs are small fish that live their entire lives within a 50-yard area, so that their health reflects the health of their immediate surroundings. Mummichog samples were obtained before the project began to document current levels of cancer in these fish native to the Elizabeth River. The site will be re-sampled in two to three years to assess post-cleanup cancer levels in the species.
- The Elizabeth River Project and partners also have a goal of economic regeneration at Money Point. Environmental problems have provided real and perceived challenges for optimum use of Money Point for generations