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## **ELIZABETH RIVER “GOO IS GOING” SET FOR JULY 1**

### **Historic First Removal of Highly Contaminated Sediments**

CHESAPEAKE, Va. – For decades, the Elizabeth River off Money Point has been a 19-acre biological dead zone. Little survives along the river bottom, because it's laced with some of the highest concentrations of cancer-causing polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in the world.

In 2006, the Elizabeth River Project announced a plan for restoring Money Point. A ceremony on July 1 launches the first phase of cleaning up the river bottom at Money Point and commemorates the historic first project among a series that will be needed to clean up the toxic Elizabeth River bottom.

The Money Point effort culminates the Elizabeth River Project's decade-long “Goo Must Go!” campaign to identify contamination problems in sediments throughout the Elizabeth River, organize support and complete engineering designs for restoration.

Phase 1 of the Money Point cleanup currently is underway and includes the removal of the first toxic hotspot (800 cubic yards) and placement of a 1.3-acre “living cap” of clean sand, oysters and wetlands to restore a healthy habitat.

Adjacent, The Elizabeth River Project also is restoring 5.5 acres of tidal wetlands and forested shore at the Elizabeth River Terminals, a private partner donating use of its land for this project.

This outdoor event begins at 10 a.m. July 1, at the Elizabeth River Terminals, 4100 Buell Street in Chesapeake. It includes a ceremony commemorating the clean up efforts now

underway - the "Goo Is Going", remarks from local, state and EPA dignitaries, followed by refreshments and tours.

The Money Point site is being restored in two phases with both to be completed no later than 2012 for a cost of more than \$6 million. Support is provided by The Living River Restoration Trust, a mitigation fund authorized by the US Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District, and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and received from APM Terminals Virginia.

Additional support comes from the Environmental Protection Agency's Targeted Watershed Initiative and Community Action for Renewed Environmental programs, NOAA's Community Based Habitat Restoration Program, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Fish America Foundation, the Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Stamp Grant Program, Hess Corp., Luck Stone and members and donors of Elizabeth River Project.

You are invited to this landmark event in the Elizabeth River watershed's restoration. For additional information, please call Sean Brickell at 560-1122 or Sharon Freeman at 718-6805.

**What: "Goo Is Going" ceremony and celebration commemorating Phase 1 of the cleanup of contaminated river bottom at Money Point on the Elizabeth River**

**When: 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 1**

**Where: Elizabeth River Terminals, 4100 Buell Street, Chesapeake**

**Why: Implements the No. 1 priority of the Elizabeth River Project - to clean up the contaminated river bottom so that the rest of the river can recover.**

## [Directions to Money Point](#)

### **Driving from VB, allow approx. 30 minutes:**

- 264 West to Norfolk
- 64 East to Chesapeake
- 464 North toward Norfolk - Follow to Freeman Avenue exit #3, and turn left at the base of the exit
- Follow nearly a mile to what looks like the end of the road and make a sharp left on Buell Street (instead of driving thru a fence)
  - Proceed to Pratt Street and turn right

### **From downtown Norfolk, allow approx. 10 minutes:**

- 264 West toward Portsmouth, cross the Berkeley Bridge but do not enter the Downtown Tunnel
- 464 South toward Chesapeake
- Follow to Freeman Avenue exit #3, and turn right at the base of the exit
- Follow nearly a mile to what looks like the end of the road and make a sharp left on Buell Street (instead of driving thru a fence)
- Proceed to Pratt Street and turn right

# **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.