

# Dow river cleanup hits a thicker layer

## REMEDIATION PROJECT SLOWED DOWN FOR EXTRA SEDIMENT

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Phase 3 of Dow Chemical's St. Clair River remediation project has reached the half-way point, the company said Wednesday.

During the past month, Dow slowed the rate of progress on the project as the hydraulic vacuum unit used to transfer the sediment from the riverbed to a containment pond on the Dow site moved into a thicker layer of sediment.

"We will continue to move ahead at a prudent pace that allows us to successfully meet our primary objective — to remove the sediment, while protecting river drinking water quality for downstream users," said Catherine Creber, Dow's remediation project leader.

Creber added Dow is continuing to routinely report the project's status and water quality test results to the Ontario Ministry of Environment and major downstream water user groups.

Originally scheduled to end in September, the three-year project is now slated to be completed sometime in October.

Once the project is completed, the company will have removed 'historic' pollutants that were dumped into the river decades ago.

Earlier this year, the project also suffered a minor setback for a couple of days when heavy rains caused some erosion along the shoreline where the work is being carried out.

During the course of the project, Dow has been using vacuum equipment and



Creber

mechanical excavations to remove sediment contaminated with mercury, chlorinated organic compounds and other chemicals

from the St. Clair River, adjacent to its Sarnia site. These chemicals were deposited by production units no longer in operation.

Once the contaminated debris is removed from the river, it will be placed in a sediment holding pond for treatment.

More than 55 million gallons of river water have been filtered from the sediment, treated to drinking water quality and released back into the St. Clair River.

Tests have indicated the sediment is suitable for disposal in a Dow-owned, non-hazardous landfill.