

Elliott Ditch Project Activities

Winter of 2024

Question or Comments, Call 24 hours a day (317) 613-4514 or e-mail at ElliottDitchQuestions@gmail.com

Background Information:

- Arconic US, LLC (formerly Alcoa) is working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 (U.S. EPA), the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), and the local community to clean up historical polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) impacts along Elliott Ditch.
- U.S. EPA and IDEM are providing technical review and approval for all cleanup work plans for the project. They are also providing oversight of the cleanup work performed.
- PCBs were used widely by electrical utilities and manufacturing industries across the nation as coolants, lubricants, electrical fluids, and in fire retardant materials from the 1950s to the early 1970s. PCBs were valued for their insulating qualities and were considered an important tool in safeguarding employees and the public against fire risks.
- The Arconic Lafayette Operations used hydraulic oils containing PCBs and phased out these materials in the mid-1970s.
- Previous investigations conducted by the U.S. EPA and Arconic revealed PCB impacts to some overbank (soil) and sediment deposits in Elliott Ditch from historic releases.
- The highest concentrations of PCBs, and the widest extent of impacts in soil, were observed on the levee situated between the intersection of Concord Road and Brady Lane through the first railroad crossing, referred to as Reach 1. Arconic cleaned up the levee in 2020 to the objective of 1.0 mg/Kg PCBs, which has been agreed upon with U.S. EPA and IDEM.
- Additional cleanup of sediment and isolated soil in Reaches 1, 2, and 3 of Elliott Ditch was performed in 2021. The excavated areas were restored to the original grade, and overbank areas were revegetated.
- The cleanup of surface soils along the northwest side of Elliott Ditch in Reach 3, from the 18th Street crossing downstream approximately 800-feet, was performed in September and October 2022.
- To date, the removed soil and sediment exceeding the cleanup objective were managed at appropriately permitted, offsite disposal facilities.
- Arconic planted a total of 1,400 native trees and shrubs per a mitigation plan approved by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources in a 3.2-acre area in Reach 1 adjacent to Elliott Ditch in the fall of 2021.
- Arconic has performed a confirmation geomorphology survey in Reaches 4 – 6 in from 2021 through winter of 2023. The survey identified PCB impacts to some soil and sediment in and along Elliott Ditch in these reaches.

Next Steps:

- The next phase of cleanup work commenced in Reach 5 in November 2023 is ongoing (Phase 4). Following the cleanup of Reach 5, activities will progress to Reach 6 (downstream)
- A geomorphology study will commence in Reaches 7 and 8 beginning in 1st Quarter 2024.
- An Interim Measures Work Plan (Work Plan) for cleanup activities in Reaches 4 – 6 was submitted to IDEM in February 2023. The Work Plan is available on IDEM's Virtual File Cabinet (<https://vfc.idem.in.gov>, document No. 83433765) or in the project repository accessible found at <http://elliottditchproject.cecinc.com>.
- Arconic is the process of contacting residents and businesses to request permission to access their properties, and in some places, to access Elliott Ditch in support of the cleanup effort.
 - Property owners aiding in investigation and clean-up will be asked to sign a property access agreement.
 - Work undertaken related to the cleanup will be paid for by Arconic.
 - Following the completion of cleanup activities, private property will be restored to conditions equal to those observed prior to construction.

Environmental and Health Impacts:

Specific questions about health impacts of PCBs should be directed to the U.S. EPA or IDEM. For more information regarding PCBs, visit the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's website at <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tf.asp?id=140&tid=26>.

USEPA and IDEM Project Managers:**U.S. EPA, Region 5**

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Project Contact Information:

- The public may leave a message with their questions and concerns regarding investigations or cleanup activities at (317) 613-4514 or ElliottDitchQuestions@gmail.com.
- The news media may contact Arconic at MediaInquiries@arconic.com.
- Additional information is available on the project website <http://elliottditchproject.cecinc.com>