



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Buffalo District

February 2007

## ASHTABULA RIVER, OH FACT SHEET

**Appropriation Category:** Operations and Maintenance (O&M) under Section 1 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1937 and Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 1986, and Section 312 of WRDA 1990, as amended

**Congressional Interests:**

Representative Steven LaTourette, R-OH-14  
Senator George Voinovich, R-OH  
Senator Sherrod Brown, D-OH

**Project Capability:**

Work Package	FY08 Capability	FY08 Budget	Issues
Maintenance Dredging, Engineering and Design (E&D)	\$100,000	\$0	Funds are not available to complete all administrative and technical activities preceding dredging that need to occur in FY08 in order to meet USEPA expectations.
Maintenance Dredging, Construction	\$11,900,000	\$0	Funds are not available to complete dredging in support USACE sequencing the on-going US EPA funded project.
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$12,000,000	\$0	

**Current Condition:** The USACE is expected to proceed sequentially with the remaining portion of the approved project, the removal and disposal of approximately 150,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment downstream of the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge. The estimated completion date for the Great Lakes Legacy Act (GLLA) project is October 2007. If construction of the USACE project cannot be undertaken within approximately 90 days of completion of the GLLA portion, the project may suffer cost increases due to loss of access to the US EPA pipeline and disposal facility, loss of pipeline right-of-way, addition of dewatering operations and potential for out-of-state disposal.

Due to delays in funding, construction of the USACE project cannot begin upon the anticipated completion of the GLLA project. If funding is provided in a timely manner, USACE can still meet the March 2008 dredging milestone and complete the project in one construction season.

**Background:** Contaminated sediments impede navigation in the Ashtabula River and pose a risk to contaminate currently clean Ashtabula Outer Harbor sediment and the waters of Lake Erie. The sediment is unsuitable for both open lake placement and conventional confined disposal, requiring upland disposal at considerably greater cost. The primary contaminants of concern (COC) are polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Lack of draft in the Federal navigation channel for receipt of raw materials has forced one deep-draft, stone product facility and ready mix concrete plant to cease operations. The presence of the contaminants in the sediment has severely degraded the river's biological communities and threatens sediment quality in the Outer Harbor and Lake Erie. The project area is listed as a Great Lakes Area of Concern (AOC) under the 1978 US-Canadian Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. In October 2004, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works approved the decision document for a project to remove and confine approximately 700,000 cubic yards of sediment.

**Significance:**

- ◆ The Federal channel in the Ashtabula River has not been dredged since 1962
- ◆ 6th leading port on Great Lakes
- ◆ 51st leading port in the nation
- ◆ Congressionally authorized Harbor of Refuge
- ◆ Hosts U.S. Coast Guard Station

2005 Tonnage	Direct Revenue	Direct Jobs	Direct Personal Income
9.5M	\$126,000,000	\$1,601	Not Available

**Consequences:**

A delay of timely completion of the downstream USACE project increases financial and project risk:

- ◆ Failure to restore navigation and commerce
- ◆ Schedule delays would generate an inability to sequence US EPA project
- ◆ Potential loss of access to US EPA Disposal Facility designed specifically for this project; Reestablish pipeline at \$3M to \$4M and reopen the landfill estimated at \$1.5M
- ◆ Perceived lack of support to Ashtabula River Partnership
- ◆ Failure to delist of AOC
- ◆ Change of scope from hydraulic transport to dewater followed by truck transport
- ◆ Migration of contaminated sediment downstream to Ashtabula Harbor jeopardizing open lake placement and upstream into US EPA project area jeopardizing successful completion
- ◆ Continued impact to community quality of life

**Project Location:**



One Area of Concern divided into two (2) project areas.

USACE Project Area downstream of the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge, US EPA Project Upstream of the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge

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