

A Review of Sediment Dredging Projects Relative to Short-Term and Long-Term Goals.
Anne G. Fitzpatrick, Timothy Thompson, The RETEC Group, Inc. Seattle, Washington.

Dredging of PCB-impacted sediment has received national and regional attention regarding its viability as an effective remedial alternative. Many criticisms of dredging include increased short-term risks with minimal long-term benefit. To address these concerns, and evaluate dredging as a potential remedial alternative for the Lower Fox River and Green Bay project located in Wisconsin, an independent review of environmental dredging case studies was conducted. The purpose of this review was to independently evaluate the effectiveness of dredging as a viable tool for sediment remediation without a priori assumptions. After an initial screening of over 60 contaminated sediment-dredging projects, 20 case studies were retained for detailed review. The screening process included several requirements: post-verification samples were collected; the chemicals of concern in site sediments were above protection levels to human health or the environment; the purpose of dredging was environmental; at least 2,500 cubic yards of sediment were removed by wet excavation methods; and primary documentation was available for review. The 20 projects retained for detailed review include a geographic cross-section of sites from the west coast (five sites); Midwest (seven sites); east coast/south (five sites); and international projects (three sites), all implemented in the past 12 years.