

## MPCA Questions

- Is environmental testing complete for the main parcel and is the proposed master plan consistent with intended remediation?

The environmental investigation on the main parcel is complete. The MPCA has reviewed and approved the environmental investigation report for the main parcel. The MPCA has also reviewed and approved the soil cleanup plan for the main parcel. Ford began cleaning up soil on the main parcel about two years ago and will likely finish in 2018.

Ford is cleaning up the soil to meet the MPCA's standards for residential use. The State is not involved in land use decisions. The role of the MPCA is to make sure that the cleanup supports the intended land use.

- Are there groundwater concerns on either of Ford's parcels that could impact the health of inhabitants or activities when the site is redeveloped?

There are no groundwater concerns on either parcel that pose a risk to people on or off the Ford site.

On the redevelopment parcel, the geology of the site largely prevented the soil pollution from moving down into the deep bedrock aquifer. Some isolated pockets of shallow contaminated groundwater (on top of the bedrock) are present and are being addressed by removing the contaminated soil which caused the problem. Groundwater remediation is not necessary at the Ford site.

- Last week, a concern about thallium was raised. What is thallium and does it pose a risk at this site?

Thallium is a metal that occurs naturally in the earth's crust, just like all metals. Thallium enters the environment primarily from air emissions from the combustion of coal (for example, from coal-burning power plants and cement plants) and from mineral smelters. Thallium is used in a limited number of manufacturing operations, for example, in the electronics industry and in the making of lenses for digital cameras. Thallium is not a pollutant that is typically associated with the automobile industry and is not a contaminant of concern on the redevelopment parcel. Historically, Ford used coal to power its steam plant, which is located on the river parcel.

Low concentrations of thallium have been detected in groundwater on the river parcel. The concentrations do not pose a risk to people (the groundwater is not used for drinking water) and the concentrations are too low to pose a risk to the Mississippi River. The origin of the thallium detections in groundwater on the river parcel is not known at this time, but the MPCA has asked

Ford to conduct some additional testing to get a better picture of its overall distribution. This may shed some light on its origin.

- Is Area C on Ford's river parcel being fully investigated and will it be cleaned up to protect the health of people, animals and water in the area and in the Mississippi?

The MPCA has required Ford to complete a full investigation of the dump on the river parcel, known as Area C. Much work has been done, but there are still a few loose ends that the MPCA has asked Ford to address. Ford has agreed to complete the additional investigation activities.

A cleanup decision for Area C will be made once the investigation is complete. In making a cleanup decision, the MPCA will take into account risks to human health and the environment from the soil and groundwater contamination.