

April 2007

Licking River Bank Stabilization Project

Ohio EPA is providing \$2.8 million dollars to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a Licking River bank stabilization project at the site of the former Newark Processing facility.

Newark Processing was a secondary aluminum recycling facility that began operating in 1980 on a site adjacent to the Licking River.

The facility processed aluminum dross, a by-product of primary and secondary aluminum smelting. Dross consists of varying concentrations of aluminum, aluminum oxides, ammonia, free metals, and salts.

During the 1980s and 1990s, Ohio EPA conducted several environmental investigations at the site, and took multiple enforcement actions.

The facility ceased operations in 1996 after filing for bankruptcy. Ohio EPA received approximately \$300,000 from the bankruptcy. The City of Newark used the funds to conduct a site evaluation.

During the past several years, the riverbank directly behind Newark Processing has been rapidly eroding as a result of unstable aluminum dross left on the site.

Ohio EPA estimates that approximately 7,000 square feet of waste has eroded into the river since 2004.

The waste is not as resistant as native soil and prior attempts by Newark Processing to stabilize the bank were not successful.

The project will stabilize approximately 1,600 feet of bank where erosion has been most severe.

The scope of work will include:

- removal of vegetation, rubble, drift and other debris;
- placement of approximately 17,000 tons of stone;
- placement of about 21,000 cubic yards of granular fill and 500 cubic yards of top soil; and
- placement of about 6,550 square yards of geotextile fabric in the stone embankment area.

Work will begin on the site in the spring of 2007 with a goal of completing the project by early 2008.

The stabilization of this bank will help protect the environmental integrity of the Licking River, as well as help the local economy by getting this site ready for redevelopment.



These are photos of the Licking River bank behind the Newark Processing facility. The extent of erosion is clearly visible when comparing the photo on the left (taken in May 2006) to the photo on the right (taken in February 2007). Since these photos were taken, the wellhead visible in these photos has been lost to erosion.

Licking River Bank Stabilization Project



Artist's rendering of complete bank stabilization project.

Funding for this project comes from the state Hazardous Waste Cleanup Fund, which, in part, includes penalties paid for hazardous waste violations, solid waste tipping fees and cost recovery from other cleanup sites. The Environmental Protection Remediation Fund also may be used for cleanups.

Criteria for the projects include:

- the party responsible for the pollution is not available or not able to pay for the cleanup;
- an analysis of the site clearly shows what cleanup is needed; and
- the cleanup is affordable with the funding available.

Ohio EPA targeted the Licking River Bank Stabilization Project as a priority project in 2005.

In discussions regarding how best to complete the project, Ohio EPA decided to approach the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for assistance due to their expertise with designing and constructing stream bank stabilization projects.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers responded enthusiastically and the parties proceeded to formalize the details of the project, which is scheduled to begin in spring 2007.
