



Placement of sediment cap containing pelletized activated carbon mixed with sand to absorb and immobilize contaminants in Scanlon Reservoir, Minnesota. Photo Credit: US. Army Corps of Engineers

St. Louis River AOC Remediation

The EPA, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed a \$10.5 million sediment remediation project in Scanlon Reservoir, a 40-acre hydroelectric reservoir located within the St. Louis River AOC. This project remediated 55,000 cubic yards of dioxin- and furan-contaminated sediments, covering a 13.5-acre area of the reservoir.

This project utilized pelletized activated carbon, a new remediation technology, to absorb and immobilize contaminants and prevent uptake of toxins into the food chain. The activated carbon was applied in three ways as part of the remediation: layered directly over contaminated sediments, mixed with sand and layered over contaminated sediments in deep water, and broadcasted in shallow waters.

Share your thoughts on the Great Lakes and consider the following questions.

- 1** How can we best address diversity, equity and inclusion in the AOC program?
- 2** What aspects of remediation and restoration efforts are you most interested in learning more about?
- 3** What would you like to know about how AOC projects benefit and impact the surrounding community?

Great Lakes Areas of Concern

Overview

Since the start of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) in 2010, federal agencies and their State, Tribal, local and private partners have accelerated cleanup of Areas of Concern (AOCs) — areas designated as the most contaminated sites around the Great Lakes under the 1987 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Cleanup of AOCs is achieved through remediation and restoration work, which leads to removing Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) such as beach closings, restrictions on drinking water consumption, fish and wildlife deformities, loss of fish and wildlife habitat and more. AOCs are delisted, considered fully cleaned up, when all BUIs have been removed from the area. Cleanup has led to community revitalization, which is especially important in environmental justice communities.

From 2010-2023, GLRI federal agencies and their partners removed 106 BUIs in 28 AOCs — over 11 times the number removed in the 22 years preceding the establishment of the GLRI.

Since 2020, two AOCs have been delisted: the Lower Menominee River in Wisconsin and the Ashtabula River in Ohio. Additionally, GLRI federal agencies and their partners have now completed all the management actions required at ten more AOCs (since 2010).

Under GLRI Action Plan IV, GLRI federal agencies and partners intend to continue their remediation and restoration efforts and will continue to implement management actions in all remaining AOCs, working toward removing the remaining 127 BUIs and delisting the remaining AOCs. Under GLRI Action Plan IV, GLRI federal agencies intend to work in coordination with community partners to investigate opportunities for enhancing existing projects and implementing planned projects that focus on environmental justice (EJ), equity and access in underserved communities.



For more information visit,
GLRI.us/Action-Plan
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