

Initial remediation strategy Sounding Board meeting on Tuesday June 13 2023

Comments

- 1 My background is in Construction so I know the process for Asbestos remediation- how does this process mirror what you intend to do, if at all?
- 2 What criteria are AN using to determine the location and extent of contamination within the estuary?
- 3 What is current level of contamination at the site and more generally in the river and what risk does it impose
- 4 What are or is the area(s) of contamination
- 5 Which authorities (eg Environment Agency, Marine Management Organisation, Food Standards Agency) will AN need to satisfy that the criteria used to define the contaminated muds will be sufficient to return the estuary to Environment Agency or other authority defined acceptable levels of TBT and other contaminants?
- 6 Will such authorities be approving the proposals for remediation? Will they also monitor compliance of the works to the agreed remediation program?
- 7 Who will be analysing the muds for TBT contamination? Are the methods suitable for the anticipated concentration levels?
- 8 The contamination also released heavy metals into the estuary. Will the muds also be analysed for mercury, cadmium, arsenic and any other suspected contaminants?
- 9 What depth of muds will be removed to ensure all contaminated sediments are removed?
- 10 Will remedial or recovery work in itself risk further contamination spread & hence a problem for river users
- 11 What, exactly, is the practical work that will be undertaken to restore the situation.
- 12 Will there be risks to others while the work is carried out. Will safeguards be in place
- 13 When will remedial work commence and how long will it take
- 14 What heavy equipment will be necessary
- 15 How will success of the remediation program be measured? What monitoring program is there into the future of uptake of contaminants in the estuary food chain (fish and molluscs) ? How long will the monitoring program continue after remediation works?

- 16 How and where will the contaminated muds be disposed of? Will the disposal require approvals by relevant authorities? Who will confirm compliance of the works to the approved disposal program? Will muds for disposal be transported on the water or by road? If by road, what restrictions will be placed on containment of the hazardous waste (eg no transport in skips or open wagons)? What provisions will there be for clean up of any spills/potential contamination on roads and in any loading areas?
- 17 How much material is involved
- 18 What are the proposals for dismantling and disposal of decommissioned on site tanks and any other potentially contaminated equipment? How will the waste material be removed and transported safely?
- 19 Who is going to independently monitor that the remediation works are done properly? It is mud that is contaminated and the tides will have spread it around the estuary, further spreading the contamination, as inevitably will work to remove the mud.
- 20 Is there to be any testing of samples away from the immediate contamination to draw a picture of how far it has spread?
- 21 Is the site currently clear of all possible contaminants and who has checked an independently verified this?
- 22 Like Chernobyl it should be left to heal over many coming years. Disturbance will likely exacerbate the problem like the River Tees in the North East 09&10/21.
- 23 If no remediation work is carried out can the funds be used to enhance/protect the River from further pollution
- 24 As a goodwill gesture will AN fund further Conservation such as Seagrass conservation and restoration in the Yealm and re-establishing native oysters in the Yealm estuary
- 25 The water has been messed up, it needs to be sorted out the least destructive way to make it safe to swim in.