

## East Fork Poplar Creek Surface Water ROD

**Scope:** The East Fork Poplar Creek (EFPC) Surface Water Record of Decision (ROD) project will select a remedy for both the upper and lower portions of EFPC. The upper portion of EFPC [Upper East Fork Poplar Creek (UEFPC)] originates in the main plant area of the Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12) and flows into Lower East Fork Poplar Creek (LEFPC) at the Y-12 site boundary. LEFPC flows through the City of Oak Ridge and ends at its confluence with Poplar Creek. The project objective is to reach a final surface water decision for the UEFPC Characterization Area (CA) and for the LEFPC Operable Unit (OU) as well as a final decision for LEFPC sediment. The remedy will be selected and implemented under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process. The project will:

- Prepare a remedial investigation (RI)/focused feasibility study (FS), Proposed Plan and ROD for regulatory approval, including evaluation of public comments; and
- Prepare a plan for future monitoring and institutional controls of the area..

The EFPC Surface Water ROD project is planned by the Integrated Facility Disposition Program (IFDP) at an estimated cost of approximately \$8M which is based on an assumed remedy of monitored natural attenuation.

### **Environmental Risk and Principal Threat Source Material Rating: High**

- The primary contaminant of concern (COC) for EFPC, which flows on and off the Oak Ridge Reservation, is mercury. Mercury and other contaminant releases at Y-12 since the 1950s have contaminated both UEFPC and LEFPC.
- The 1995 LEFPC ROD<sup>1</sup> and remediation focused on the risks associated with mercury contaminated floodplain soil. Decisions about other environmental media within the creek were deferred until upstream sources are addressed.
- The UEFPC Phase I ROD<sup>2</sup> remedy is designed to reduce mercury flux in UEFPC; however, not all components of the remedy have been implemented. The UEFPC Phase I ROD interim watershed goal is restoration of surface water to 200 parts per trillion (ppt) mercury at Station 17 near the Y-12 site boundary. A decision regarding compliance with the Ambient Water Quality Criteria (AWQC) for mercury has been deferred to this future EFPC Surface Water ROD project.

### **Other Prioritization Factors:**

- Institutional controls and monitoring at UEFPC and LEFPC continue to be implemented. The RI report and focused FS will be used to prepare the EFPC Surface Water ROD.
- In order to limit the potential for recontamination and to evaluate the effectiveness of planned source removal actions, the EFPC Final Surface Water ROD is scheduled for IFDP implementation after completion of upstream remediation and D&D projects at Y-12.

### **Overall Prioritization: Low**

The overall prioritization for the EFPC Surface Water ROD project is **Low**.

*The information presented in this fact sheet is preliminary and will be refined during Critical Decision-2/3 development.*

<sup>1</sup> Record of Decision for Lower East Fork Poplar Creek, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, DOE/OR/02-1370&D2, DOE 1995

<sup>2</sup> Record of Decision for Phase I Interim Source Control Actions in the Upper East Fork Poplar Creek Characterization Area, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, DOE/OR/01-1951&D3, DOE 2002

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For more information, please contact the DOE public affairs office at (865) 576-0885.

