

# Midland Resolution Project Newsletter

MARCH 2014

## LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

The Dow Chemical Company and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) have made substantial progress toward resolving the dioxin situation for City of Midland soils. Initial soil sampling and cleanup began in summer 2012 and activities will continue in 2014.

To date, almost 95 percent of residential properties (1,345 parcels) in the Midland Resolution Area have been tested. Of those tested, 116 tested above the 250 parts per trillion (ppt) action level. Ninety-eight of these properties have been cleaned up and the rest will be cleaned up this spring. The project is ahead of schedule and now has an anticipated 2015 completion date.

Property owners in the resolution area can take pride in their role in this process. Their flexibility and cooperation have aided significantly in our progress. Currently, there are 32 property owners who have yet to respond to our access requests and 18 property owners who have declined access. Dow is required by the MDEQ to test every residential property in the resolution area. Dow must continue to periodically request access from the 50 property owners until the company has access to these pieces of land. If your property has not yet been tested, please contact the Midland Resolution Center 989-631-2270 at your earliest convenience.

As always, Dow and DEQ remain open to your questions and available for dialogue. Thank you for your support and patience during this process, and watch your mailbox for further updates as they become available.

**Rich Wells**  
THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY

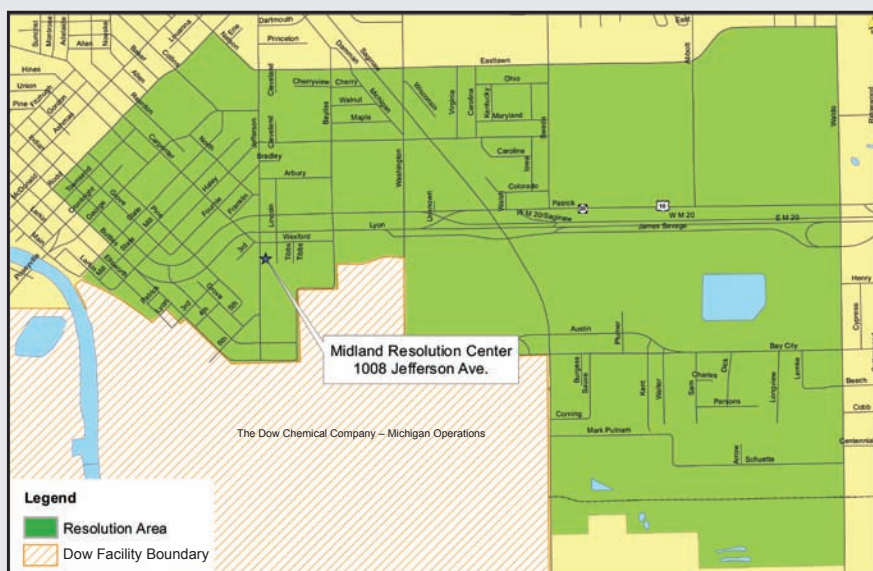


**DeLores Montgomery**  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Department of  
**Environmental Quality**  
PURE MICHIGAN

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

In February 2012, DEQ and Dow announced agreement on a proposed plan to resolve the historic issue of dioxin contamination in the City of Midland residential soils. The resolution requires Dow to analyze soil samples from residential properties in the Resolution Area (see below) to determine dioxin levels. About 1,400 residential properties are located in the sampling area. Properties containing more than 250 parts per trillion (ppt) of dioxin are eligible for cleanup activities. Properties with 250 ppt or less do not require cleanup.



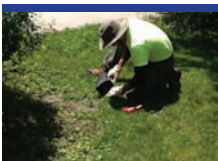
## Cleanup Process

Dow used a systematic process to conduct 2012 and 2013 cleanup activities. The process involved contacting residential property owners in the sampling areas to request permission to sample soil on their properties. With property owner approval, Dow analyzed soil samples to determine level of dioxins present within the parcel. Properties that tested above 250 parts per trillion (ppt) were offered cleanup; properties testing at or below 250 ppt required no action. Cleanup activities for 2014 will follow the same process.

***We need your help.*** There are property owners who have not responded to multiple requests for access or have chosen to decline access. It is in the community's interest to have the sampling completed. Please contact Dow if you have not had your property sampled. If you know of a property owner who has not been sampled please encourage the individual to contact Dow, so sampling can be completed.

## By the Numbers (as of February 15, 2014)

Implementation of Dow's Midland Area Soils work plan continues to progress well, with almost 95 percent of properties sampled through the end of the 2013 season. All field work is expected to be completed in 2014, well ahead of schedule.



**ACCESS AGREEMENTS**  
Dow has obtained 1,374 access agreements from a total of 1,424 total properties.

96%



**SAMPLING PROGRESS**  
Dow has sampled 1,345 properties out of a total of 1,374 properties for which we have access agreements.

98%



**PROPERTIES ABOVE ACTION LEVEL**  
Of the 1,345 properties sampled, 116 required cleanup.

9%



**REMEDY ACTION PROGRESS**  
To date, Dow has cleaned up 98 properties out of a total of 116 that tested above 250 ppt.

84%

## What Are Dioxins?

Dioxins are unintended by-products of certain industrial processes and also occur due to activities such as burning. Dioxin contamination in the city of Midland is the result of airborne emissions from historic waste management practices at Dow. Emissions released into the air from incinerators used earlier in Dow's manufacturing operations contained dioxins, which ended up in the soil downwind of the plant.

Dioxin emissions from Michigan Operations decreased dramatically over the years as processes were modernized.



## QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE

**Q:** Has soil sampling occurred at parks or schools in the resolution area?

**A:** Yes. All parks, public spaces and other residential-like property in the resolution area have been sampled and, to date, none has required cleanup. There are three schools in the resolution area (Central Middle School, St. John's Lutheran and Longview Elementary) that have been tested, with sampling results expected in early 2014.

**Q:** Will commercial properties in the resolution area be sampled?

**A:** As the residential sampling process nears completion, DEQ and Dow are discussing the possibility of extending sampling to some commercial properties. Commercial property owners within the resolution area may be contacted through a separate communication.

**Q:** Are all residential property owners within the resolution area required to participate in the program?

**A:** The choice to grant access is up to the property owner. However, the agreement between DEQ and Dow requires that EVERY residential property within the resolution area ultimately be tested. To date, 50 property owners have not responded to multiple requests for access to their properties or have declined access. If your property has not been tested, please contact the Resolution Center at (989) 631-2270 or (888) 778-2306.

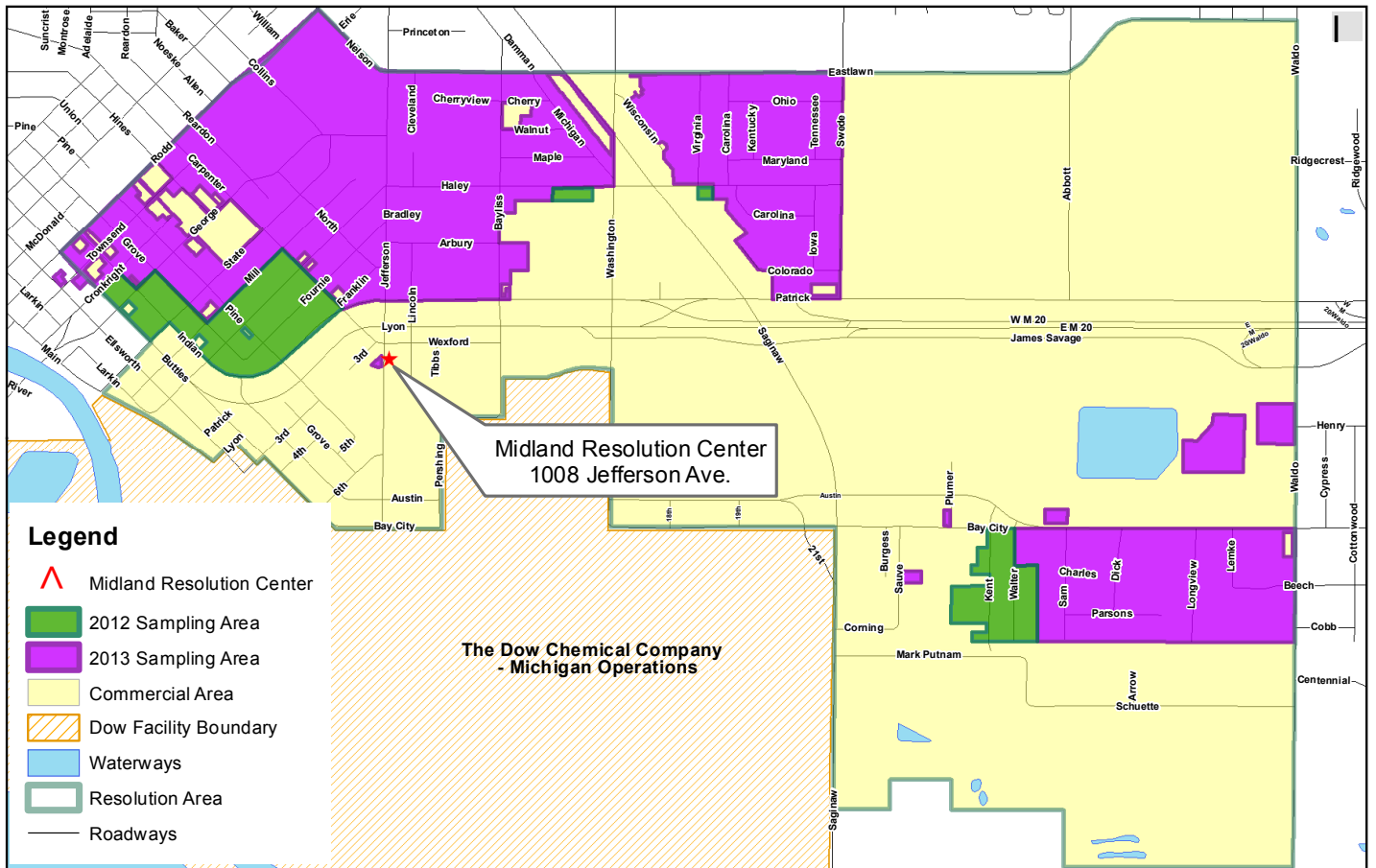
**Q:** Will the resolution area boundary expand to test more properties?

**A:** The MDEQ has described the resolution area as a flexible boundary that could be expanded if test results indicate the need. Sampling results for most residential properties will be completed by spring, which will provide the data necessary for DEQ and Dow to begin to assess the boundaries of the resolution area.

*Many more commonly asked questions and answers and other information can be found on the DEQ website at <http://www.michigan.gov/deqdioxin>*



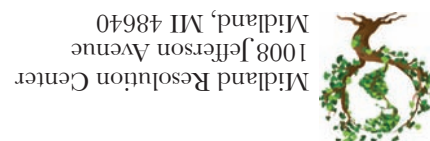
# Sampling Areas



## From Start to Finish

The pictures below capture the cleanup process from start to finish.





## ***Has your property been sampled?***

If you own property in the resolution area (see map) and your land has not yet been sampled, please contact Dow at your soonest convenience by calling (989) 631-2270 or (888) 778-2306. The entire community will benefit from the conclusion of this effort, which cannot occur until every property in the remediation area has been tested.

## **PATH FORWARD**

Dow will resume cleanup activities in Spring 2014, as soon as weather conditions make it feasible to begin work.

DEQ and Dow are offering information sessions to provide updates on the remediation process. The sessions will be at Midland Community Center, Room A101, 2205 Jefferson Avenue, Midland, on the following dates:

March 11, 2014  
6-8 p.m.

March 13, 2014  
1-3 p.m.

March 18, 2014  
6-8 p.m.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

For more information, please contact us with your questions and comments.

### **In Person:**

Midland Resolution Center  
1008 Jefferson Avenue  
Midland, MI 48640  
(989) 631-2270 • (888) 778-2306  
[www.midlandresolution.com](http://www.midlandresolution.com)

### **DEQ Contacts:**

Al Taylor  
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or

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