


# Tittabawassee River Conceptual Site Model (CSM)

CAG Meeting July 16, 2012



# What is a Conceptual Site Model?

- ▶ A conceptual site model (CSM) is a general representation of the environmental system and its major physical, chemical, and biological processes
  - ▶ A CSM generally includes information about contaminant sources, transport pathways, and potential exposure pathways and receptors
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# CSMs are important to EPA

A CSM is addressed as one of EPA's "Principles for Managing Contaminated Sediment Risks at Hazardous Waste Sites" (2002)


**Principle #4 – Develop and Refine a Conceptual Site Model that Considers Sediment Stability.**

# How is a CSM used?

The CSM is used to:

- ▶ Test site hypotheses
  - ▶ Identify data gaps
  - ▶ Understand areas of critical uncertainties
  - ▶ As a valuable tool in evaluating the potential effectiveness of cleanup options
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# CSMs should evolve over time.

- ▶ The initial CSM should be modified as new information becomes available over time
  - ▶ Updated CSMs should:
    - Improve the strength and consistency of the multiple lines of evidence
    - Help reduce critical uncertainties
  - ▶ The Tittabawassee River CSM will evolve over time, as needed
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# Initial Tittabawassee River CSM

- ▶ After this brief introduction we will show a video of the preliminary Tittabawassee CSM
  - Prepared by Dow at EPA's request
  - At this time we are not presenting the CSM for the Saginaw River and Bay
- ▶ This video is intended to be “plain language” so the general public can understand it
  - Highly detailed, scientific CSMs are found in the technical reports
  - This version of the video is a work in progress and may change before it is finalized

# What are we asking the CAG?

- ▶ Is this video clear and understandable?
  - ▶ Did it help you understand the historical and current site conditions in the Tittabawassee River?
  - ▶ Do you think there are portions of the video that may be confusing for the public?
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Show Video and Discuss