

# Old Champlain Canal - Overview



- Town of Saratoga and the Village of Schuylerville have long-term recreational and development plans for the area of Old Champlain Canal and Fort Hardy Park
- EPA coordinated sediment sampling program with NYSDEC and NYSDOH
- Sampling of the Canal was conducted between 2012 and 2021
  - Total of 43 locations and 68 samples analyzed from the canal
  - Additional analytical results conducted to support municipalities' plans
  - PCB results ranged between non-detect and 9.5 ppm
  - Other contaminants were also detected
- Data Summary Report prepared by GE (with oversight by EPA)
  - Includes all data collected in canal to date
  - Provided to municipalities in 2022
- Sample results will be included in the floodplain comprehensive study - Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study (RI/FS)
- EPA and NYSDEC continue to be available to the municipalities regarding their future plans



# Impacted Areas Used by People



- Areas used by people – EPA in coordination with NYSDEC/NYSDOH continue to identify these areas and changes in use of these areas
- Schuylerville use areas identified by a local resident/CAG member
  - Separate detailed presentation to follow
- Additional use area sampling was conducted in 2023
  - 116 samples collected from 38 locations on 10 properties
  - Total PCB concentrations range from non-detect to 220 mg/kg
    - The elevated PCB areas are being immediately addressed
    - Short-Term Actions planned/design by GE for review by EPA in close consultation with NYSDEC/NYSDOH
    - All work is on a property by property, area by area basis in close coordination with property owners



# Floodplain Short-Term Actions



- Areas regularly used by people are prioritized for sampling
- Sampling associated with community projects are also prioritized
- Immediate action taken to address areas with elevated PCBs
  - Short-Term Actions implemented on 66 properties (48 grass or gravel covers, 93 warning signs)
  - Covers – topsoil, grass, or gravel covers (fabric under covers as marker layer)
  - Signage – along long trails and less frequently used areas
    - Signage is regularly checked to confirm it remains in-place



Soil cover at Saratoga Boat Launch

# Floodplain Short-Term Actions



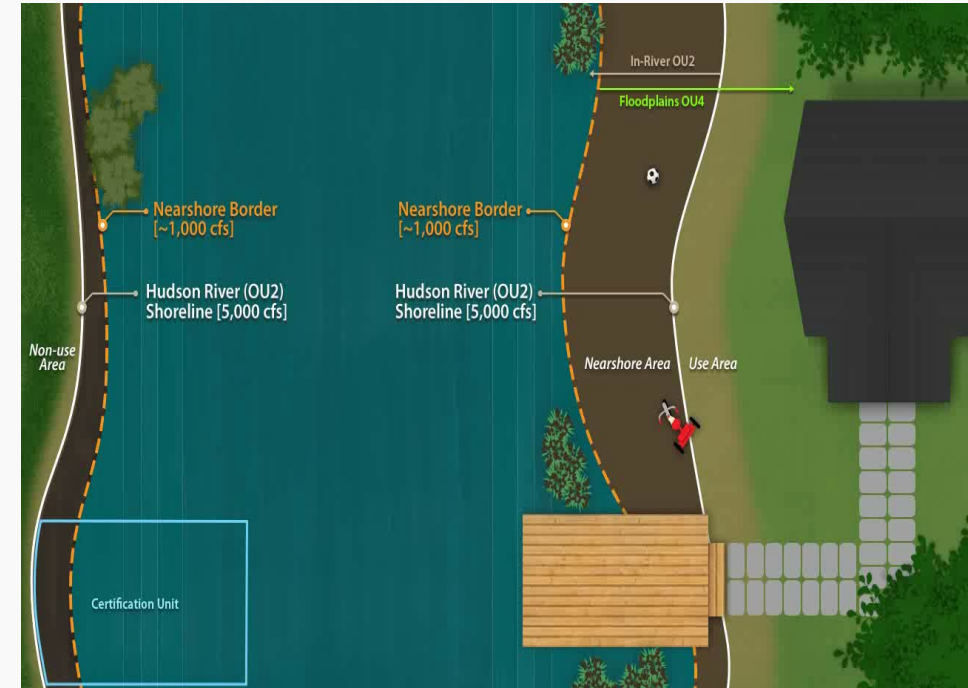
- Annual inspection of Short-Term Actions were conducted in summer of 2023
- Short-Term Action maintenance planned for this fall
- Installation of Short-Term Actions planned for 2023
  - Three new Short-Term Actions
  - Expansion of an existing Short-Term Action
- Potential installation of one Short-Term Action in 2024
  - After additional sampling and discussion with owner
- Short-Term Actions will be completed as areas are identified



# Floodplain Comprehensive Study



- The comprehensive study is being done under an agreement with GE
- Ongoing sampling
  - Flood mud samples collected to assess impacts from flood events
    - One flood mud sampling event in 2023
    - Samples were collected from 9 locations in May 2023
    - Total PCB concentrations ranged from non-detect to 1.62 mg/kg
  - Multiple rounds of soil sampling in past years and more this year
    - Focus on better understanding contaminant distribution
    - Follow-up verification study sampling to be conducted in fall 2023 – high density sampling on several properties located in Reach 3



- Risk assessment work is ongoing
  - PCB concentrations decrease farther down river and away from the shore
  - Initial screening level assessments underway (both Human Health and Ecological)
    - GE responding to EPA comments on human health screening level assessment
  - Preliminary ecological field efforts conducted in June 2023
    - Past work included earthworm sampling
    - Field work to support future RI/FS activities



# Ecological Risk Assessment – Field Effort



- Two field efforts conducted in 2023 to help develop future sampling plans
- Terrestrial (land) invertebrate sampling
  - Purpose – test various methods of collecting invertebrates and gain a better understanding of the likely distribution, presence and mass of invertebrates
- Catbird survey (observation of nesting areas)
  - Purpose – develop logistics for potential full scale program including search techniques for nesting behavior specific to Hudson River



# Floodplain – Next Steps



- Continue coordination with municipalities and NYSDEC/NYSDOH
- Continue field reconnaissance to identify new use areas/changes in use
- Continue screening level risk assessments
- Installation of new Short-Term Actions and continued inspection and maintenance of existing Short-Term Actions
- 2023 soil sampling and data evaluation

