



Hudson River
PCBs SUPERFUND SITE



**Community Advisory Group
Meeting**

William K. Sanford Library, Colonie

February 5, 2009



Hudson River
PCBs SUPERFUND SITE

Agenda

- **Welcome & Introductions**
- **Revised Community Health and Safety Plan**
- **Consent Decree Modifications**
- **Public Water Supply Baseline Sampling Results**
- **Brief Updates**



Revised Community Health and Safety Plan (CHASP)



Community Health and Safety Plan

- Prepared by GE
- Approved by EPA
- Separate documents for Phases 1 & 2
- Initially submitted with Phase 1 Final Design Report (March 2006)
 - Several planning meetings with residents and emergency responders to refine plan
- Revised CHASP submitted in April 2007
- New revision just developed by GE
 - Draft subject to public comment before finalized

Community Health and Safety Plan (Con't)

- Addresses potential hazards to public in river and at processing facility
- Separate Worker Health and Safety Plan addresses hazards to workers
- Planning to continue beyond submission of CHASP draft
 - Table-top and annual drills

Components of CHASP

- Identify potential hazards to community during work in river, on-shore and at processing facility
- Control of potential hazards (how to prevent/minimize hazards)
- Protection of drinking water supplies
- Emergency response plans for spills/releases/accidents
- Community notification process
- Complaint resolution process
- Identification of project safety personnel/emergency contacts

Examples of Potential Hazards to Community

In river:

- Exceedance of PCB resuspension standard
- Barge accident

On-shore work:

- Equipment failure/fire
- Elevated levels of PCBs in air

At or near processing facility:

- Worker injury
- Fuel spill

Control of Potential Hazards

- Public awareness of work activities to promote safety
- Training of project personnel to minimize accidents
- Monitoring as early warning mechanism
- Maintenance of equipment
- Engineering controls
- Project modifications if problems recur
- Temporary work stoppage on river and at processing facility if safety problems arise

Emergency Response Procedures

- Who gets called when?
- Coordination of local emergency response teams
- Who takes lead at emergency scene?
- Where is emergency equipment located?
- Location of closest hospital/first aid center? Directions?

Design team worked with
community leaders and local responders
to coordinate response efforts

Community Education and Notification Process

- CHASP includes processes for notifying communities of:
 - Emergency situations
 - Exceedance of project standards
 - Project modifications
 - Project stoppages
- Focus on providing timely, accurate information

Complaint Resolution Process

CHASP includes:

- **Process for communicating concerns/questions to project team and EPA**
 - 24/7 telephone hotline
 - Project web site
 - E-mail contact
- **Sample response procedures for complaints (odors, noise, lights)**
- **Timeframe for response**
- **Names, contact information for key project and oversight personnel**
- **Latest draft revised with contractor personnel**

Protection of Drinking Water Supplies

Latest CHASP refines information regarding private water intakes

- **More than 250 properties evaluated from Fort Edward to Schuylerville**
- **Recommended approach includes providing those drinking river water and/or using river water in their homes with bottled water at GE's expense during dredging**
- **Describes approach for addressing existing use of river water**

Present Research on Water Intakes

26 private water users:

- 2 drinkers
- 5 household users
- 2 fill pools
- 3 water animals
- 14 water gardens

3 commercial intakes

Protection of Drinking Water Supplies (Con't)

- CHASP revised to include approach for protecting Halfmoon, Waterford and Stillwater water supplies
 - Requires different method for analyzing water samples if resuspension standard is exceeded
 - Method can be performed quicker
- Identifies procedures for timely notification of towns if drinking water standard is exceeded at any of the monitoring stations

CHASP Next Steps

- GE has submitted the revised CHASP to EPA
- There will be a 30 day public comment period
- Input from the community including first responders
- Document will be finalized
- Document will be updated as the project progresses



Consent Decree Modifications



Consent Decree Modifications

- **Modifications proposed to 2006 agreement**
 - No changes proposed to the construction of sediment processing facility and performing Phase 1 of dredging
- **Notice published in the Federal Register on January 26, 2009**

Drinking Water Protection

- **GE will pay the lesser of:**
 - **\$7,000,000 -or-**
 - **all costs incurred by EPA relating to the design and construction of the water line for Towns of Waterford and Halfmoon; and the design, construction, use and maintenance of the Granulated Activated Carbon (GAC) system for the Village of Stillwater's water supply wells**
- **EPA also made a significant contribution including overseeing the work and completing design and design related studies**

Drinking Water Protection

- EPA will pay Waterford's and Halfmoon's increased costs of obtaining water from Troy during:
 - any period in which PCB levels in the river exceed 500 ppt, or
 - when there is insufficient time to get water monitoring results before a parcel of water from the dredging location reaches the water supply intake
- Phase 1 dredging activities are more than 30 miles upstream of these water intakes

Drinking Water Protection (Con't)

- **Strict Engineering Performance Standards have been developed to minimize resuspension of PCBs during dredging**



Water Quality Monitoring Plan Adjustments

- GE will use an analytical method that will yield quicker results (Method 508, same method used by public water supplies)
- Monitors will collect water for a 24-hour period, lab analysis will take 8-10 hours, and EPA will have results in 34 hours
- If flow is greater than 8,000 cfs, monitoring will be adjusted to reduce the water collection period from 24 to 12 hours, yielding results within 22 hours
- If flow is 10,000 cfs or greater, dredging operations will be shut down

Water Quality Monitoring Plan Adjustments (Con't)

- EPA has worked closely with the NYSDOH and the NYSDEC to ensure that the modified monitoring requirements are protective and will continue to meet the objectives of the project
- The revised monitoring program will be more efficient and will lessen impacts on navigation
- **Additional Modification:** Makes minor changes to administrative requirements such as notices and submissions

Public Comment

- **The Department of Justice is accepting public comments on the consent decree modifications through February 25, 2009.**
- **The revised Community Health and Safety Plan will be available soon for review. EPA will take comments on the revised plan for 30 days following its release to the public.**

Consent Decree Public Review

Hard-copy versions of the *Consent Decree* modifications are available at the information repositories located in:

Glens Falls
Fort Edward (Hudson River Field Office)
Ballston Spa
Albany
Poughkeepsie
New York City (EPA Region 2 Office)
Edgewater, New Jersey

Electronic copies can be found online on the Department of Justice Web site at www.usdoj.gov/enrd/Consent.Decrees.html or on the EPA Web site www.epa.gov/HUDSON



Public Review (Con't)

The public can submit comments in writing
via hard copy or E-mail.

All comments should be sent to:

Assistant Attorney General
Environment and Natural Resources Division

P.O. Box 7611

U.S. Department of Justice

Washington, DC 20044-7611

pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov





Public Water Supply Baseline Sampling Results

*New York State
Department of Health*



Brief Updates

Drinking Water Protection Construction

- **Water line construction (Waterford and Halfmoon)**
 - 4 ½ miles of pipe
 - 70 % complete pipeline
 - 18,200 ft in trench
 - 10,746 ft area restored
 - 6,600 ft tested
 - 80 % complete with drilling under river
 - Troy side operational

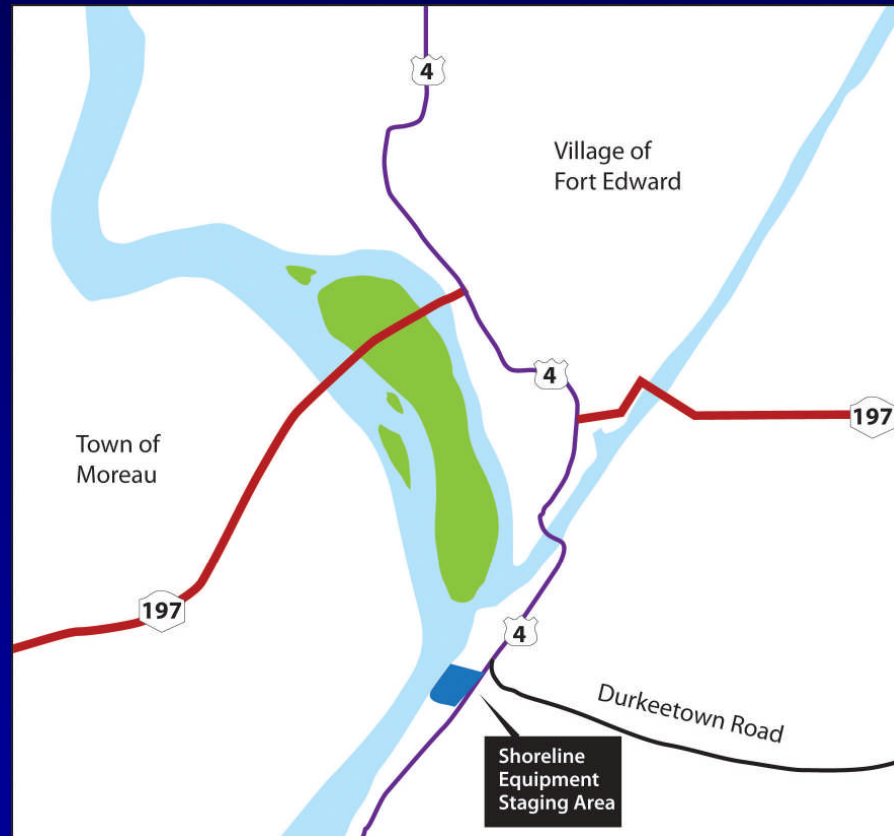
Summary Floodplain Sampling Work

- In past, sampling had been done (about 630 samples)
- Summer 2007 interim remedial measures were done on 15 properties (10 include caps)
- Fall 2008 samples collected from Fort Edward to Troy
 - 280 properties
 - Approx 1000 locations
 - 2129 samples collected (EPA also collected some samples)
- Data will be used to supplement a remedial investigation (to be done in the future) and determine if interim remedial measures are needed



In-river Support Facilities: Shoreline Equipment Staging Area

- Located on Rt. 4, south of Durkeetown Road
- Property owned by GE
- Abuts shoreline property owned by NYSCC



In-river Support Facilities: Shoreline Equipment Staging Area

- On-site assembly/lay-down area of in-river vessels (barges, tugs, tree pruning equipment)
 - Work to begin on land in February
- Staging of 20,000 tons of stone needed for capping
- No dredged sediments handled at site
- Use of site reviewed by the town

In-river Support Facilities: Staging of Capping/Backfill Materials

- **Backfill to be placed in river after dredging**
- **Need staging area to load material onto barges for placement**
 - **Conveyor system will mechanically move material to shoreline**
 - **Material to be trucked to staging area**
 - **Trucks to use existing state truck routes**
 - **Staging of material could begin before dredging**
- **GE's contractor evaluating sites now**
 - **Discussions with Georgia Pacific regarding Moreau property**
 - **Discussions ongoing with town of Moreau**

Questions

