

Hudson River PCB Superfund Site Project Update

Community Advisory Group Meeting

March 31, 2016



- Project Update
 - Processing Facility Demobilization/Restoration
 - Habitat Reconstruction
 - Fish Program
 - OM&M
 - Five-Year Review
 - Floodplains
 - Follow up
 - NOAA/EPA recent information

Facility Demobilization/Restoration



- Work at facility is ongoing
 - Cleaning and sampling of equipment
 - Equipment Status
 - EPA overseeing the work full time
 - EPA collecting confirmation samples
- Working closely with property owners and municipalities
 - Beginning to take steps to return property to owners
- Wipe testing of equipment and buildings ongoing
- Consideration of approach for cleaning concrete cracks and joints

Facility Demobilization/Restoration

(cont'd)



- Electrical equipment considerations
- Currently cleaning buildings and rail yard
- Discussing storm water systems with New York State – reconfiguring and decommissioning
- Piping, wire and scrap metal (tanks, etc.) continues to be cleaned, tested, and moved off-site
- Currently deconstructing concrete pits (sampling)
- Most of the marine has been demobilized
- ***Questions?***

Habitat Reconstruction



- Work plans have been submitted for 2016
 - Currently under review
- Work expected this summer (June start)
- Construction packages (2015 as-builts) for habitat have been approved
- To date 1.4 million SAV and RFW plants installed
- For 2016
 - 0.9 acres of SAV to be planted
 - 7 acres of RFW to be reconstructed

Habitat Reconstruction

(cont'd)



- Reconstructed habitat monitoring is ongoing
 - Potential response actions could include additional planting
- Follow up from previous seasons
 - Each reconstructed area by season is at a different status
- Currently evaluating against benchmark criteria
- ***Questions?***





- 2016 fish sampling is coming up (April)
- 2015 fish status
 - Delayed as agreed with NYSDEC
 - Working closely with NYSDEC to improve fish processing procedures
 - We will be processing 2015 fish soon
- Expect to present on 2015 fish later this year when data is available
- ***Questions?***

Operation Maintenance and Monitoring



- Workshop held in February
 - We are continuing to consider the input provided
- Work plan due date was March 15
 - Extensions have been granted
- Compiling comments
- Not expecting revised plan until after EPA and GE meet to discuss the input/comments



Operation Maintenance and Monitoring

(cont'd)



- Water monitoring and fish monitoring programs currently being conducted are adequate in the short term
- Sediment sampling is time-critical
 - Schedule for review of the draft work plan
- Habitat and cap monitoring is ongoing
- ***Questions?***

Five Year Review



- The Five Year Review has begun
 - Notice has been sent out
 - Ongoing analysis of existing data
 - Will include 2016 data
 - Ongoing evaluation of NOAA technical information
 - Ongoing interaction with CAG and the public

A screenshot of the EPA Newsroom website. The page has a blue header with the EPA logo and navigation links: "LEARN THE ISSUES", "SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY", "LAWS & REGULATIONS", and "ABOUT EPA". The main content area is white with a blue border on the left. The title of the news release is "EPA Initiates Second Review of Hudson River PCB Cleanup; Public Encouraged to Participate". Below the title, it lists the release date as 03/29/2016 and contact information for Larisa Romanowski. The body text describes the second review of the Hudson River PCBs Superfund site, mentioning the cleanup work completed in 2015 and the ongoing evaluation of data. It also states that the current review will include new data collected this spring and summer, and that the five-year review will be one of a series of future reviews to evaluate the project's goals.

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

LEARN THE ISSUES SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY LAWS & REGULATIONS ABOUT EPA

Newsroom

You are here: EPA Home » Newsroom » News Releases from Region 2 » EPA Initiates Second Review of Hudson River PCB Cleanup; Public Encouraged to Participate

News Releases from Region 2

EPA Initiates Second Review of Hudson River PCB Cleanup; Public Encouraged to Participate

Release Date: 03/29/2016
Contact Information: Larisa Romanowski, 518-407-0400, romanowski.larisa@epa.gov

(Albany, NY) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has initiated its second review of the cleanup of the Hudson River PCBs Superfund site. The purpose of this review, which is called a five year review and is legally required under the Superfund law every five years after the start of on-site construction, is to ensure that the cleanup is working as intended and will be protective of public health and the environment. The first five-year review for the Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site was completed in 2012 and the EPA anticipates conducting reviews every five years well into the future. The EPA will conduct its current review in an open and transparent manner with input from the public.

After six seasons of in-river work, dredging to remove polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from a 40-mile stretch of the upper Hudson River between Fort Edward and Troy, New York, was completed in the fall of 2015. The cleanup was conducted and paid for by General Electric Company with EPA oversight under a legal agreement with the EPA.

The current five year review will include new data to be collected this spring and summer, including fish, water and sediment data. EPA will also use all available data for the project, including fish, water and sediment data collected since the last five-year review.

This five-year review will be one of a series of future reviews. It will evaluate whether the stated goals of the project are being met, or are expected to be met, based on the available data. Several more years' worth of post-dredging data will be needed to understand the reduction of PCB levels in fish as a result of the project.

The five-year review will also include a review of the cleanup plan for the areas of PCB-contaminated sediment upstream of the areas targeted for dredging. These areas, known as the remnant deposits, became exposed after the river water level dropped following removal of the Fort Edward Dam in 1973. These areas are now capped, maintained, and monitored.

Five Year Review

(cont'd)



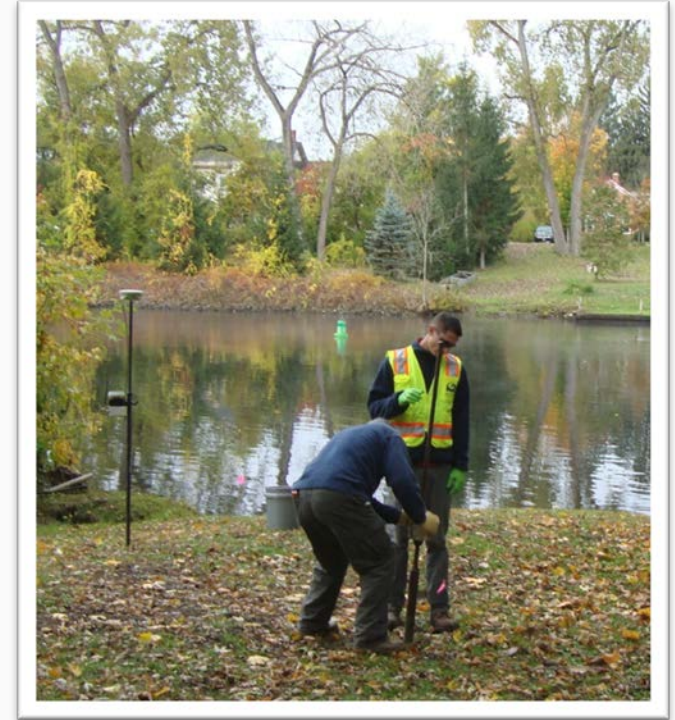
- First Workshop (April/May?)
 - Include review of EPA guidance
 - Five Year Review design
 - Schedule for the Five Year Review
 - 2016 data collection
- Schedule for future workshops?
- Close coordination with New York State, the CAG, the public, and the Trustees
- ***Questions?***

Floodplain Project Status

- Floodplains Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) – September 30, 2014
 - Final RI/FS Work Plan
- Floodplain Characterization Report under review
- Cultural Resource Work Plan - available
- Meetings with GE and New York State regarding field verification activities
- Developing Field Sampling Plan
- Ongoing public outreach

Floodplain Characterization Report (FCR)

- Recent agreement on FCR
 - Study Area Boundary
 - Local Region Boundaries
 - Delineation of Backwater Areas
- Other FCR Considerations
 - Refinement of statistical approach
 - Tributaries
 - Former Fort Edward Pool
- Beginning discussions on sampling locations
 - Large sampling program anticipated (~1,000 locations)



Public Outreach and Ongoing Coordination

- Preparing Community Involvement Plan (CIP)
- Preparing Floodplain Fact Sheet
- Property access coordination starting soon
- Coordination with elected officials and property owners
- Coordination with GE on outreach associated with ongoing sampling
- Coordination with NYSDEC, DOH, NYSCC, and NPS



Next Steps Anticipated For 2016

- Finalize Floodplain Characterization Report
- Community Involvement Plan
- Begin Screening Level Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments
- Prepare Field Sampling Plan (data gaps)
- Floodplain sampling
- Continued “Flood Mud” sampling
- Follow up with field verifications
- Continue to refine schedule
- ***Questions?***

Follow Up Items (previous CAG meeting)



- TSCA vs non-TSCA material from navigation channel
- Local vendor – Capital district (Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Washington, Schenectady, and Warren counties)
- Parcels at processing facility – map available
- List of support properties on river (various)
 - Sediment processing facility (PCBs handled on site)
 - Sediment transfer facilities (PCBs handled on site)
 - Facilities with no PCBs handled on site
 - Backfill loading areas (Moreau, Saratoga, and Rensselaer)
 - Crew change docks throughout river

Follow Up Items

(cont'd)



- Process for determining “reasonably anticipated future use” areas – to be added to the Floodplain Pathway Analysis Report
- Fort Hardy Park inspection and response – Improved approach for response has been agreed upon with GE
- ***Questions?***



NOAA/EPA Recent Information



NOAA (www.casedocuments.darrp.noaa.gov/northeast/ HUDSON/admin.html)

- Presentations (various) - fish recovery in the lower river
- Fact sheet - Predicting Future Levels of PCBs in Lower Hudson River Fish
- Article - Science of the Total Environment (Vol 557-558, pp489-501) “Re-visiting Projections of PCBs in Lower Hudson River Fish Using Model Emulation”

EPA (www.epa.gov/Hudson)

- White paper - “Response to NOAA Manuscript Entitled: *Re-visiting Projections of PCBs in Lower Hudson River Fish Using Model Emulation*”
- Fact sheet - EPA Response to NOAA PCB Fish Analysis

Questions?

