Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site Community Health and Safety Plan

Presentation for Town of Fort Edward
August 2004

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Community Health and Safety Plan (CHASP)

- Prepared by GE
- Approved by EPA
- Separate documents for Phases 1 & 2
- Documents to be submitted same time as Final Design Reports
- Draft documents subject to public comment/public sessions before finalized

CHASP includes health and safety plans
to protect surrounding communities during project

To develop CHASP, need to know:

- What dredging technologies will be used
- Where/when will dredging occur
- Where will dewatering site(s) be located
- How will material get from river to dewatering site(s)
- How will dredged material and water be staged/processed/treated at the dewatering site(s)
- How will dewatered material be transported to off-site disposal
- Potential sources of backfill and how they will be transported
- Habitat replacement efforts

These elements will be determined during Intermediate Design, and must be known before development of CHASP begins in earnest

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EPA performance standards developed to protect public during project

Engineering Performance Standards

- Residuals
- Resuspension
- Production Rate

Quality of Life Performance Standards

- Light
- Noise
- Odor
- Air Quality
- River Navigation

CHASP will focus on public health and safety and will address relevant portions of performance standards

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Components of CHASP

- Identify potential hazards to community during work in river, on-shore and at dewatering site(s)
- 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
- Fuel spill

On shore work:

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

At or near dewatering site(s):

- Worker injury
- Train derailment

How to Control of Potential Hazards

- Public awareness of work activities to promote safety
- Training of project personnel to minimize accidents
- Monitoring as early warning mechanism
- Project modifications if problems recur
- Temporary work stoppage on river and at facility(ies) if significant safety problems arise
- Separate Worker Health and Safety Plan

Protection of Drinking Water Supplies

CHASP to include:

- Description of resuspension standard and associated monitoring
- Public/EPA notification process if standard is not achieved
- Process for modifying project, if appropriate
- Temporary work stoppage, if necessary, until resuspension is controlled

Emergency Response Procedures

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

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

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Community Notification Process

CHASP to include processes for notifying communities of:

- Emergency situations
- Failure to achieve performance standards that affect community
- Project modifications
- Project stoppages

Complaint Resolution Process

CHASP to include:

- Process for communicating concerns/questions to project team and EPA (e.g., 24/7 telephone hotline, web site, e-mail)
- Sample response procedures for complaints (odors, noise, lights)
- Timeframe for response
- Method for maintaining log of complaints
- Names, contact information for key project and oversight personnel

Safety is primary focus.

Phase 1 will develop information on quality-of-life issues for review before Phase 2.

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