Next Steps and Upcoming Project Activities

Community Advisory Group Meeting

December 3, 2015

Summary

- Ongoing Habitat Reconstruction 2015/2016
- Facility Demobilization and Restoration
- Remedial Action Certification of Completion
- Operation, Maintenance & Monitoring (OM&M)
  - Habitat – Benchmarks and Success Criteria
  - Caps
  - Fish
  - Water Column
  - Sediment
- Five Year Reviews

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Ongoing Habitat Reconstruction

- Habitat reconstruction of Riverine Fringing Wetlands (RFW) & Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) in areas dredged in 2015 will be completed in 2016
  - CUs 60, 94-96, 99
  - Similar amount of work in 2016
  - Other areas of reconstruction as necessary (response actions)

- The primary goal of the habitat program is to replace the functions of the dredged habitats of the Upper Hudson River

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Current Processing Facility Demobilization Activities

- Equipment demobilization, decontamination, and sampling underway
  - Equipment cleaning and sampling ongoing
  - Equipment can be removed from the site once it has been cleaned and sample results verify decontamination is complete
- Cleaning/sampling asphalt and concrete surfaces, soil, sediment, water, structures, and infrastructure are next steps
- Discussions between GE, EPA, and property owners ongoing regarding future site reuse

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Processing Facility Demobilization
Next Steps

Decisions about structures, infrastructure, and paved/concrete surfaces will be made based on sampling results and discussions between GE, EPA, and property owners

- Requested items to be left include: certain structures, asphalt/concrete surfaces, electrical, potable water lines, wharf, access road to site (Lock 8 Way), bridge on Lock 8 Way

Complete demobilization and restoration of support properties

- Used for crew changes, staging of materials and equipment along length of river

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Processing Facility Demobilization Closeout

- Final site configuration is considered as part of restoration plans
  - Includes stormwater, property access, site control
- Demobilization and restoration work anticipated to be complete by the end of 2016

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Remedial Action Certification of Completion

- Certification of Completion of Remedial Action
  - Sequence of steps between GE and EPA that lead up to EPA approval
  - Steps include:
    - Engineering documents need to be completed and approved
    - Demobilization and restoration of all facilities
    - Site inspections
  - Anticipated 2017
- Formal beginning of Operation, Maintenance & Monitoring (OM&M)

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Operation, Maintenance, and Monitoring (OM&M): Habitat Reconstruction

- Habitat reconstruction is evaluated using Benchmarks and Success Criteria
- Benchmarks
  - Quantitative, statistically-based evaluation
  - Compare reconstructed RFW and SAV areas to reference areas (non-dredged areas)
  - Observe recovery metrics such as % cover and species composition to monitor progress of initial plantings and natural recolonization (non-destructive)
  - Goals gradually increase each year
  - Benchmarks typically evaluated over a five year period to transition areas into Success Criteria

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Operation, Maintenance, and Monitoring (OM&M): Habitat Reconstruction

- Success Criteria
  - Statistical comparison of dredge areas to non-dredge areas (looking at RFW and SAV as well as unconsolidated river bottom areas)
  - Observe % cover, species composition, biomass or stem density
  - Will also include benthic macroinvertebrate sampling
  - Evaluations applied at a larger scale (by River Reach)
  - Monitoring continues until criteria are achieved
- Remedy includes monitoring of fish, water and sediment to determine when Remediation Goals are reached, and also monitoring the restoration of aquatic vegetation

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Operation, Maintenance, and Monitoring (OM&M): Caps

OM&M

- Caps: year 1, year 5, and year 10 surveys after construction, then 10-year surveys in perpetuity
  - i.e., 2011 caps surveyed in 2012, 2016, and 2021
  - Surveys after flood events
  - Cause of cap disturbance requires evaluation
  - Repairs if 3” of elevation loss over 4,000 sf area or 20% of cap area

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Operation, Maintenance, and Monitoring (OM&M): Fish Monitoring

OM&M

- Fish Monitoring
  - Continue current annual program (spring and fall)
  - Program is evaluated on regular basis
    - Large fish collected in spring (~350 fish)
    - Small forage fish (~1 yr old) collected in fall
  - Fish monitoring expected to continue into the foreseeable future (consideration of remedial action objectives and fish advisories)

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Operation, Maintenance, and Monitoring (OM&M): Water Column and Sediment Monitoring

OM&M

- Water Column Monitoring
  - Continue current program
  - Ongoing review of the program
  - Continue to evaluate PCB load to lower river
  - Continue to evaluate concentrations at baseline stations in the Upper Hudson River
  - Water column monitoring expected to continue into the foreseeable future
- Sediment Monitoring
  - Sampling surface sediment in dredged and non-dredged areas to evaluate PCB concentrations
  - Includes sediment sampling in areas that did not meet dredging criteria
  - Sediment monitoring expected to continue into the foreseeable future

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Five Year Review

- Last Five Year Review conducted in 2012
- Continued evaluation of the protectiveness of the remedy
- Remedial Action Goals of the Project:
  1. Reduce the cancer risks and non-cancer health hazards for people eating fish from the Hudson River by reducing the concentration of PCBs in fish.
  2. Reduce the risks to ecological receptors by reducing the concentration of PCBs in fish.
  3. Reduce PCB levels in sediments in order to reduce PCB concentrations in river (surface) water that are above surface water ARARs.
  4. Reduce the inventory (mass) of PCBs in sediments that are or may be bioavailable.
  5. Minimize the long-term downstream transport of PCBs in the river.

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Questions?

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