Hudson River Floodplain Update

Community Advisory Group Meeting
Thursday, March 29, 2018
1-4 pm
Saratoga Town Hall

Remedial Investigation

- Remedial Investigation currently underway – purpose
    - Determine where and at what concentration the floodplain is contaminated with PCBs
    - Assess the risk that the contamination poses to human health and the environment
- Evaluate potential cleanup alternatives as part of the feasibility study
- Administrative order on consent with GE
- Summary: ~ 6,000 acres – 43 miles – 2,000 properties
    - Sampling is multi-phased process conducted over multiple sampling events
        - To date: ~ 8,000 samples collected
        - 2017 sampling included not only soil but standing water and sediment
            - Other information collection continues – survey work, mapping and field verification

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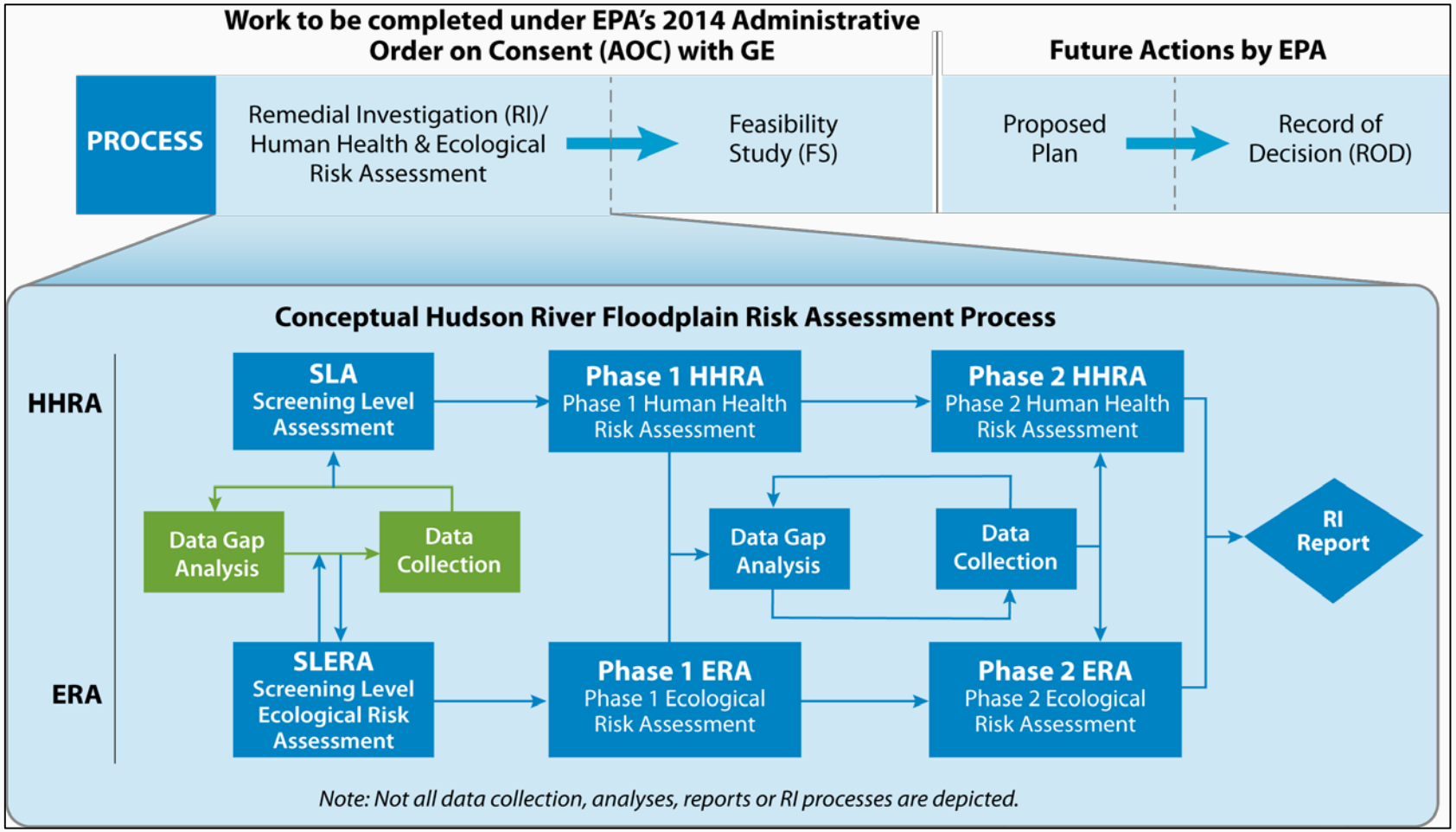
Remedial Investigation

- Video survey of entire shoreline
- Data and information continues to be incorporated into the Floodplain Characterization Report (large data report)
- Annual flood mud sampling during high flow events (>100 to date)
- Where short-term risks are identified immediate action is taken - removal actions



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Short-Term Response Actions

- Protective measures are immediately taken when soil concentrations of PCBs are found to generally exceed 10 ppm
  - 66 implemented to date
  - Typically consist of a protective soil cover (48)
  - May be signage if limited human use (18)
- Inspected and repaired annually
- 2017 - GE installed one additional soil cover at a residential property
- As data is collected others may be implemented
- These actions are considered temporary

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2017 Floodplain Work

- 2017 work began with outreach to property owners for access
  - Alternate sample locations sometimes needed
- Sampling occurred October – December 2017
- 390 samples were collected from ~ 170 properties
  - Samples were collected to fill data gaps based on statistical analysis and spatial coverage
- PCB results consistent with previous sampling (higher upstream and closer to river)
  - 133 of the 170 properties (78%) showed either no PCBs or PCB levels below 1 part per million
  - On 30 properties (18%), PCB levels ranged between 1 ppm and 10 ppm
  - The remaining 7 properties (4%) were above the 10 ppm threshold, and will be further reviewed by EPA and GE. Those properties are not currently used as residential or recreational areas
- Most of the ~ 2,000 properties do not have elevated levels of PCBs
- Sample results being provided directly to property owners (letter with map showing results)

2017 Standing Water Areas Sampling

- Exclude tributaries and typically have water year-round
  - Includes areas such as wetlands and ponds
  - The Old Champlain Canal is a standing water area
  - Some areas are connected directly to the River via culverts and others are isolated
  - Some standing water areas also have some water flow
- 240 sediment and 85 surface water samples collected
- Important data in terms of potential ecological impacts
- Water samples ranged between not detected and 9 ppt (one sample)
- Sediment samples ranged between not detected to 9 ppm

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Schuylerville – Old Champlain Canal and Park

- Follow up regarding July 2017 flooding from old canal into Fort Hardy Park
- Ongoing close coordination between EPA, NYSDEC, NYSDOH, Village, Town and GE
- Old Canal - sediment samples (13 new) collected from old canal by GE and NYSDEC (16 to date)
  - Low levels of PCBs found in some sediment
  - One area of elevated PCBs detected by NYSDEC
    - PCB results inconclusive (co-located samples have different results)
    - EPA and DEC agree re-sampling the area is the appropriate next step
      - Further close coordination with Village and Town regarding sampling planned
        - » Future use, community use plans and other sediment test parameters
- Park - soil samples (5 new) in areas where canal water flooded to park (43 to date)
  - Very low or no PCBs detected
  - Additional sampling planned (0 to 2 inches) as needed
- Park is safe for use – area near river was addressed with soil cover

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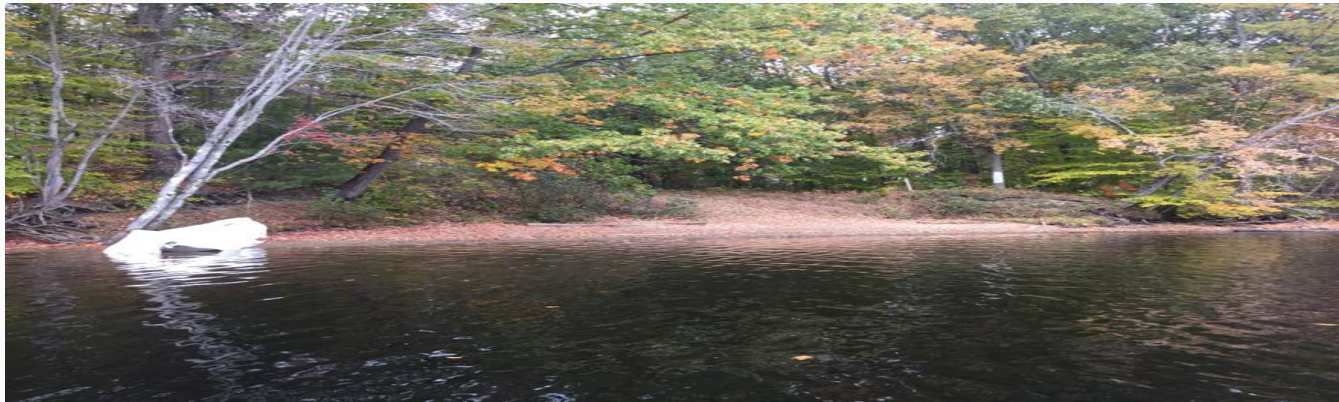
Near-Shore Sediments

- Near-shore sediments are being addressed as part of the floodplain studies
- Extensive field work has been conducted to identify near shore areas that have potential use
- Data will be evaluated to determine data gaps and the need for future sampling of these areas
- CAG member provided helpful information regarding ~ 11 specific near-shore areas
    - EPA has reviewed the list and is familiar with the locations
    - Locations are being addressed as part of floodplain work as appropriate



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Near-Shore Sediments

- Situations where people could encounter PCBs (see next slide graphic)
  - Swimming and/or wading in river – public recreational use
    - Evaluated as part of river risk assessment
    - River bottom sediment PCB data shows continued decline
    - See NYSDOH – Advice About Swimming: https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/hudson_river/swimming_during_hudson_river_dredging.htm)
  - Water level drops and river bottom exposed – people can access and use the area
  - Shorelines – areas people use
  - Floodplain soil and/or sediment
    - See EPA – Minimizing Exposure to PCBs in Floodplain Soil (Spring 2017 Community Update): https://www3.epa.gov/hudson/2017%20Spring%20Sampling%20Fact%20Sheet%20051017%20Final.pdf
  - Standing water - not expected to contain significant PCBs - sampling ongoing


In-River OU2
Floodplains OU4
Nearshore Border
[~1,000 cfs]
Nearshore Border
[~1,000 cfs]
Hudson River (OU2)
Shoreline [5,000 cfs]
Hudson River (OU2)
Shoreline [5,000 cfs]
Non-use
Area
Nearshore Area
Use Area
Certification Unit

Next Steps

- Continued coordination with property owners
  - Provide sampling results to property owners (letter, data and map)
  - Meet with property owners to discuss results and answer questions (as needed)
- Review Floodplain Characterization Report (large data report)
- Determine sampling needs for 2018
- Start Screening Level Ecological and Human Health Risk Assessments
- Continue to keep community, elected officials and CAG up to date
- Ongoing community involvement efforts (including Community Involvement Plan)
- Continued close coordination with NYSDEC, NYSDOH and NYSCC
- Annual short-term actions inspections this spring
- Ongoing flood mud sampling

Questions?

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