

Community Involvement Plan

June 2009



Prepared for:



**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 2**

Prepared by:



Under Contract with:



**United States Army
Corps of Engineers**



Community Involvement Plan

June 2009

Prepared for:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 2

Prepared by:



Under contract with:



United States Army
Corps of Engineers



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

MAY 12 2009

To Hudson River Community Members and Stakeholders:

We appreciate the time so many community members and other stakeholders have taken to meet with EPA and to share their thoughts and concerns regarding the cleanup of the Hudson River PCBs Superfund site. Those thoughts and concerns have been incorporated into this updated Community Involvement Plan. EPA recognizes the value that an engaged public brings to this project, and it is only through the input of community members and stakeholders that community involvement is truly accomplished.

EPA is committed to carrying out the Hudson River cleanup in a safe and protective manner. We are equally committed to public participation at every phase through an open process that encourages affected communities and interested organizations to provide input on the critical issues related to the cleanup. In keeping with that commitment, we have developed a Community Involvement Plan that encourages real dialogue. It was built on the input provided by the community during interviews, workshops and dialogue with EPA staff.

We have heard your views on how to move forward in an inclusive way. You have reaffirmed the need for accurate, timely and understandable information about the issues that concern you, and you relish the opportunity to provide input on them. It is clear that we all share a common goal — a healthy and beneficial river — and that you want to be involved in the project in a constructive way.

Through the many resources described in this updated Community Involvement Plan, EPA will help to enhance your understanding of the project. Just as important, we will ensure that there is adequate time and opportunity for you to provide meaningful input and for us to consider that input.

Again, I thank everyone who has contributed to the updating of this Plan through interviews, workshops and information sessions, and in many other ways. I hope you will continue to be involved. I know the Hudson River can one day be as healthy as it is beautiful. Let's work together to make the most of this historic opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George Pavlou".

George Pavlou
Acting Regional Administrator
USEPA Region 2

This Community Involvement Plan serves as a guide for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in sharing information and providing opportunities for public input on the dredging of PCB-contaminated sediments from the Upper Hudson River and other activities outlined in EPA's February 2002 Record of Decision (ROD) for the Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site. It is also designed to assist the communities along the nearly 200-mile length of the Hudson River PCBs Site to become meaningfully involved in and informed about the project.

A Community Involvement Plan was prepared by EPA and finalized in August 2003 to guide outreach and involvement throughout the design of the dredging project. In June 2009 the plan was updated to guide EPA's outreach activities during dredging implementation and floodplains investigation. If you have any questions about this Community Involvement Plan, please contact:

Kristen Skopect
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA - Hudson River Field Office*
421 Lower Main Street
Hudson Falls, NY 12839
Phone: (518) 747-4389
Toll-Free: (866) 615-6490
Fax: (518) 747-8149
Email: skopect.kristen@epa.gov

David Kluesner
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA – Region 2 Office
Public Affairs Division
290 Broadway, 26th Floor
New York, NY 10007
Phone: (212) 637-3653
Fax: (212) 637-4445
Email: kluesner.dave@epa.gov

For more information on the Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site, visit www.epa.gov/hudson, www.hudsondredging.com or request information by contacting either of the Community Involvement Coordinators listed above.

** The Hudson River Field Office is located in Fort Edward, NY. The mailing address for the Field Office, however, is Hudson Falls, NY 12839.*

Table of Contents

| Section | Page |
|--|------------|
| Executive Summary | 1 |
| 1 Overview | 1-1 |
| 1.1 Working Together | 1-1 |
| 1.2 Introduction | 1-2 |
| 2 Site Background..... | 2-1 |
| 2.1 Site Description | 2-1 |
| 2.2 Site History | 2-3 |
| 2.3 Site Cleanup: The Selected Remedy | 2-7 |
| 2.4 How the Cleanup Is Being Conducted | 2-8 |
| 2.5 Hudson Floodplains Investigation..... | 2-9 |
| 2.6 EPA, GE and New York State | 2-10 |
| 2.7 EPA and NYSDOH..... | 2-11 |
| 2.8 Community Involvement During Design of the Cleanup Plan | 2-12 |
| 3 Community Background..... | 3-1 |
| 3.1 Community Profile..... | 3-1 |
| 3.2 Key Community Concerns | 3-7 |
| 3.2.1 Community Concerns about the Process..... | 3-8 |
| 3.2.2 Community Concerns about the Remedy..... | 3-10 |
| 3.2.3 Community Involvement Commitments from the 2002 ROD..... | 3-10 |
| 3.3 EPA’s Response to Community Concerns..... | 3-17 |
| 4 EPA’s Community Involvement Plan..... | 4-1 |
| 4.1 Community Involvement Goals | 4-1 |
| 4.2 Community Involvement Tools and Activities | 4-1 |
| 4.3 The Hudson River PCB Superfund Site Community Advisory Group (CAG)..... | 4-17 |
| 4.3.1 General Framework..... | 4-18 |
| 4.3.2 Convening the CAG | 4-20 |
| 4.4 The Plan..... | 4-23 |
| 4.5 Summary of Community Involvement Activities | 4-23 |
| 4.6 Updates to the Community Involvement Plan | 4-24 |
| 5 List of Abbreviations and Acronyms..... | 5-1 |

Table of Contents (cont.)

| Section | | Page |
|-----------------|--|-------------|
| 6 | Glossary | 6-1 |
| 7 | References | 7-1 |
| Appendix | | |
| A | EPA Regional Contacts | A-1 |
| B | Federal Elected Officials | B-1 |
| C | State Elected Officials | C-1 |
| D | Federally Recognized Indian Nations/Tribes..... | D-1 |
| E | Local Elected Officials..... | E-1 |
| F | Stakeholder Groups..... | F-1 |
| G | Other Contacts: Federal, State, and General Electric..... | G-1 |
| H | Media Contacts..... | H-1 |
| I | Meeting Locations..... | I-1 |
| J | Information Sources | J-1 |




List of Tables

| Table | | Page |
|--------------|--|-------------|
| 2-1 | Targeted Dredging Amounts..... | 2-7 |
| 3-1 | Upper Hudson River Demographic Profile..... | 3-2 |
| 3-2 | Mid-Hudson River Demographic Profile..... | 3-3 |
| 3-3 | Lower Hudson River Demographic Profile | 3-4 |
| 4-1 | CAG Membership as of January 1, 2009..... | 4-20 |
| 4-2 | Community Involvement Issues and Tools | 4-24 |




List of Figures

| Figure | | Page |
|---------------|---|-------------|
| 1-1 | Site Location Map Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site, New York..... | 1-3 |
| 2-1 | Site Location and Project Area Map Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site, New York | 2-2 |
| 2-2 | Site History | 2-4 |
| 2-3 | Hudson River Fish Advisories Downstream of Hudson Falls, New York | 2-6 |
| 2-4 | Summary of Community Involvement Activities..... | 2-14 |
| 3-1 | Sequence of Key Events and Public Involvement Opportunities | 3-19 |

Executive Summary

The Community Involvement Plan (CIP) is the foundation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Superfund community involvement and outreach program for the Hudson River PCBs site cleanup. The CIP specifies the outreach activities EPA uses to address community concerns and expectations. It assists the Community Involvement Coordinators, who serve as liaisons between community members and Hudson River site team members and other agency officials, in finding effective and appropriate ways to inform and engage the public. The CIP is for the public to use to make sure EPA is responsive to their needs and concerns. EPA is committed to promoting active and meaningful public participation in all aspects of the Hudson River PCBs site cleanup and floodplains investigation.

This CIP is the latest update in a series of plans designed to involve the public at the Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site. The first CIP for the site was issued in July 1984. Updates followed in May 1989 (update to the 1984 document), December 1989 (Final CIP for In-Place Containment), August 1992 (Final CIP for Reassessment), and August 2003. This document is an update to the 2003 CIP and is intended to guide activities through completion of dredging.

The CIP is divided into seven sections:

Section 1 discusses the purpose of the CIP and the framework under which it will function.

Section 2 presents the history and nature of the contamination and aspects of the selected remedy and discusses the history of community involvement at the site.

Section 3 identifies geographic and demographic characteristics of the Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site and discusses general and specific community concerns.

Section 4 is the action plan. It lays out the principles for community involvement and identifies tools that will continue to be used by EPA to promote greater public participation and awareness. These tools are then combined with the concerns and issues identified in Section 3. These include general and specific community concerns as well as community involvement commitments identified in the February 2002 Record of Decision.

Section 5 contains the List of Acronyms and Abbreviations.

Section 6 contains the Glossary.

Section 7 contains the References.

The **Appendices** are designed to serve as a resource guide for both EPA and the community. Specific sections include EPA and project team contacts, local government contacts, media contacts, and directions on how to obtain additional Superfund and EPA information.