How Will the Public Be Involved in the Selection Process?

As the facility selection process diagram indicates, the public will be informed and involved in every phase of the facility selection process. In the coming weeks, the EPA will conduct public availability sessions and meet with groups and public officials in an effort to provide timely and accurate information about the siting process. Additional fact sheets and updates identifying the preliminary and final candidate sites and further opportunities for public involvement will be distributed in the coming months. Below are the dates for the public sessions:

December 11, 2002
2-4 p.m. & 6-8 p.m.
Hudson River Field Office
421 Lower Main Street
Fort Edward, NY

December 12, 2002
2-4 p.m. & 6-8 p.m.
Sage College of Albany
140 New Scotland Ave.
Albany, NY

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site Facility Siting Concept Document will be available at the EPA Hudson River Field Office beginning the first week of December 2002.

The EPA Hudson River Field Office:
The office is located at 421 Lower Main Street (Route 4) Fort Edward, about one-half mile north of the Fort Edward GE plant. Open **8:00 a.m. to 4:30 pm.**, with evening hours by appointment.

To contact the EPA Hudson River Field Office:
By phone: (518) 747-4389
By fax: (518) 747-8149
By email: HRFO@capital.net
By mail: Hudson River Field Office|
421 Lower Main Street
Hudson Falls, NY 12839
On the Web: www.epa.gov/hudson

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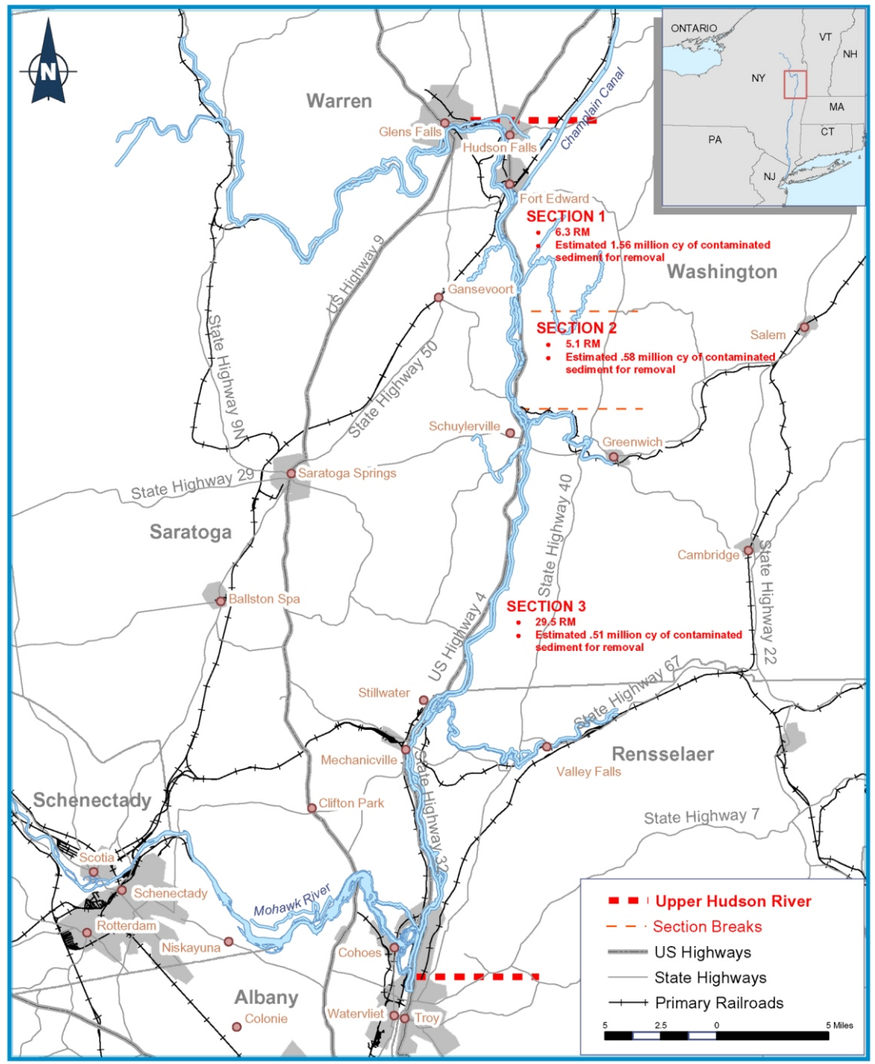
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region 2: NJ, NY, PR, VI • 290 Broadway, New York, NY 10007

Hudson River
PCBs SUPERFUND SITE

Project Update: Facility Siting

December 2002

This fact sheet provides information on the public process and engineering criteria that will be used to select locations for sediment processing/transfer facilities needed for the Hudson River PCBs Superfund site cleanup. In addition to siting land-based facilities, as indicated in the Record of Decision (ROD), the use of a water-based facility will be evaluated. The water-based facility evaluation will be completed separately.



The primary objective of the Hudson River PCBs cleanup is to protect people and the environment from unacceptable risks due to PCB-contaminated sediments in the Upper Hudson River.
On February 1, 2002, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Hudson River PCBs Site. The ROD specifies that 2.65 million cubic yards of PCB-contaminated sediments will be dredged from the Upper Hudson River from Fort Edward to the Federal Dam in Troy. The dredged materials will be processed, transported off-site, and either disposed of in an appropriate facility or applied to some beneficial use.

What is a Sediment Processing/Transfer Facility?

There are three main operations that occur at this type of facility:

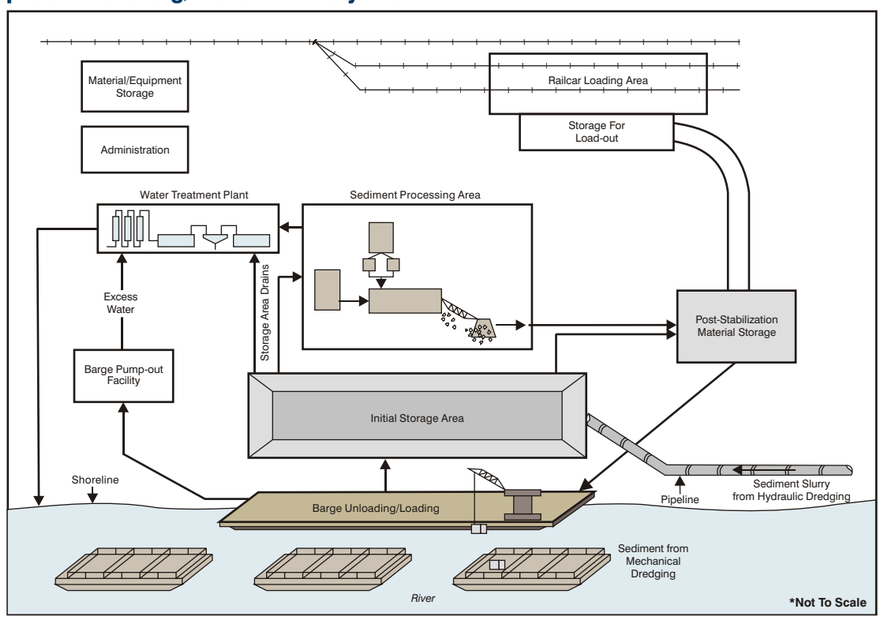
- Transferring of dredged sediments from barges or a pipeline to the facility.
- Processing and dewatering of the sediments.
- Transferring the processed sediment for off-site disposal or beneficial use.

As PCB-contaminated sediments are dredged, the sediments will be transported to the facilities by barge or pipeline and transferred to the processing area. The sediments will then be processed to remove water and stabilized (as necessary) for shipment. The water will be sent to an on-site plant for treatment before it is released back into the river. The dewatered sediments will be transferred for off-site disposal or beneficial use. A facility may also include an operations field office, a laboratory, and equipment storage areas. Additional storage areas may also be used to store clean sediments for backfilling dredged areas.

Why are Sediment Processing/Transfer Facilities Necessary?

In order to implement the cleanup of PCB-contaminated sediments, the EPA must identify Upper Hudson River locations for facilities that will be used to transfer and dewater the dredged sediments. These specialized facilities are a crucial part of the cleanup and will be selected and constructed to safely handle the dredged material.

Conceptual Processing/Transfer Facility Plan



The Facility Selection Process

The key steps in the facility selection process are to:

- Develop facility selection criteria that can be used in the selection and decision-making process.
- Establish a procedure for the identification, screening, and selection of potential facility locations.
- Identify locations that meet the requirements of siting a sediment processing/transfer facility.

The facility selection process will be done in an open and transparent public process.
In considering locations, the EPA will focus on industrial and/or commercial properties within one-half mile from the river's edge between the Port of Albany and the Hudson Falls Dam.
The process of facility selection will first involve the development and review of basic facility criteria. These criteria will be categorized into three groups.

Group 1 criteria include six basic engineering criteria that will be used to identify the preliminary candidate sites.

Group 1 criteria include:

- Sufficient space for facility construction and operations
- River access
- Rail access
- Road access
- Utilities
- Proximity to dredge areas.

Group 2 criteria include additional environmental and quality of life considerations. These criteria will be used in conjunction with the Group 1 criteria to screen and evaluate the preliminary candidate sites and to select the final candidate sites.

Group 2 criteria include:

- Identification of/Proximity to sensitive resources
- Cultural resources
- Existing and historic land uses
- Documented rare or unique ecological communities
- Threatened and endangered species
- Ease of purchasing/land ownership
- Wetlands
- Geology and/or surface features
- Mapped 100-year floodplain and floodway.

Group 3 criteria will be developed during site-specific field investigations. Investigations may include on-site cultural resources, geologic, topographic, and/or other environmental studies. Field studies will look at the design and layout of the final sites and determine what pre-construction preparations are needed. Following these investigations, the locations of sediment processing/transfer facilities will be recommended. The number of sediment processing/transfer facilities will be determined during the remedial design phase of the project.

Use of Siting Criteria in the Facility Selection Process