Why the river needs to be dredged

EPA's decision to dredge PCB-contaminated material from the Upper Hudson River was made to protect people and the environment from unacceptable health risks from eating PCB-contaminated fish from the river. These PCBs were discharged by General Electric from manufacturing plants in Hudson Falls and Ft. Edward, New York. For more than twenty-five years, the levels of PCBs in Hudson River fish have prompted New York State to issue health advisories' recommending limits or bans on eating fish from the river.

EPA reached its decision to dredge the Hudson River by analyzing river water, sediment and fish data. EPA determined that levels of PCBs in fish have remained high for years and action to remove PCBs must be taken in order to reduce the levels of PCBs in fish within a reasonable time period.

How it will be done

PCB-contaminated sediments from the Upper Hudson River will be dredged using environmental techniques such as mechanical (sealed bucket) and hydraulic (vacuum) dredging. As the PCB-contaminated sediments are dredged, the sediments will be transported by barge or pipeline to a sediment processing/transfer facility(ies).

The locations of the facility(ies) has not yet been identified. EPA will focus on industrial or commercial properties within one half mile of the river's edge between Albany and the former Ft. Edward Dam. Once the dredging is done, the site or sites will be restored, taking into account their anticipated future uses, such as commercial or recreational redevelopment. In addition, EPA continues to evaluate the possible use of water-based dewatering facilities.

The contaminated sediments will be processed to remove water and stabilized for shipment. The water will be sent to an on-site plant for treatment before it is released back into the river. The sediments will be taken by rail cars and/or barge to permitted landfills outside the Hudson Valley area for disposal. If a beneficial use of some portion of the dredged material is arranged, an appropriate transportation method will be determined (rail, truck or barge).

For More Information

Visit, call or write to the Hudson River Field Office at the address below or log on to **www.epa.gov/hudson**

EPA Contacts

N.G. Kaul Director
Leo Rosales Community Involvement Coordinator

Hudson River Field Office
421 Lower Main Street
Hudson Falls, NY 12839
(518) 747-4389

The Field Office hours are Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, with evening hours by appointment. Please call 518-747-4389 or send email to **hrfo@capital.net**.

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UNITED STATES • ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Hudson River PCBs SUPERFUND SITE

Region 2: NJ, NY, PR, VI • 290 Broadway, New York, NY 10007

Project Design Fact Sheet
2002-2006

Highlights
- Project schedule milestones
- Upcoming activities on the Hudson River
- Opportunities for public involvement

Designing the Hudson River Cleanup

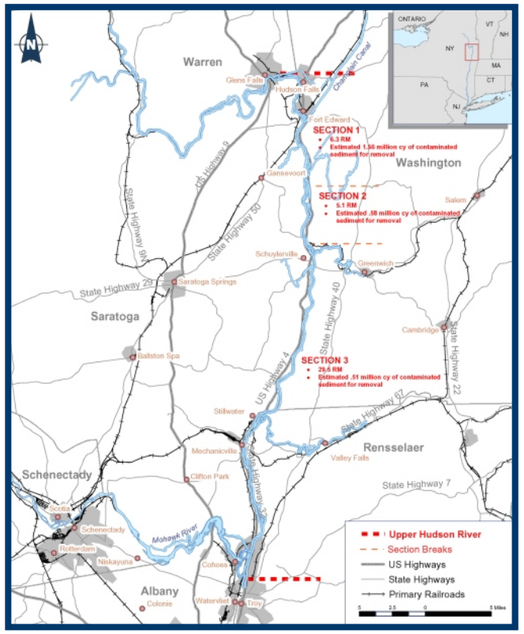
On February 1, 2002, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Hudson River PCBs Superfund site. The ROD called for the environmental dredging of an estimated 2.65 million cubic yards of PCB-contaminated sediments from the Upper Hudson River between the former Ft. Edward Dam and the Federal Dam in Troy, New York.

The cleanup of the Upper Hudson River will protect people's health and the environment. EPA will ensure that the design of this project makes use of sound science, quality engineering and the latest technologies available.

Design Schedule

In the February 2002 ROD, EPA projected that a three-year period would be needed to design the cleanup project, with environmental dredging to begin in the summer of 2005. The schedule has been adjusted to accommodate the time required for negotiations with General Electric (GE) and the need for additional community involvement. The adjusted schedule anticipates that dredging will begin in late spring 2006, the next dredging season.

The design phase of the Hudson River cleanup includes: the collection and analysis of approximately 30,000 sediment samples required to precisely identify the areas to be dredged; the siting, design and construction of sediment processing/transfer facility(ies); development of performance standards; independent peer review of engineering performance standards; and the design of the dredging program. Of course, the project design also includes a community involvement process that will provide ample and meaningful opportunities for public input and participation.



The projected schedule has been influenced by EPA policy under Superfund that calls for potentially responsible parties to perform needed cleanups at Superfund sites whenever possible, rather than EPA using federal funds for cleanup actions. The initial schedule for the Hudson River project design assumed that EPA would be implementing the cleanup using federal funds through the Superfund program. EPA has already reached an agreement with GE, the potentially responsible party, to perform sediment sampling work (see description below). The negotiations leading to that agreement required EPA and GE to resolve a number of complicated technical issues and resulted in the sediment sampling work starting later in 2002 than EPA originally anticipated.

The diagram on the next page outlines key field activities and opportunities for public input and participation during the complex design phase of the project that will result in a cleaner and healthier Hudson River.

Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site

Sequence of Key Events

Over the next three years, the public will continue to see the sediment sampling in action, provide input on the selection of the sediment processing/transfer facility(ies) and the development of performance standards, and have many opportunities to attend public sessions to ask questions, comment on reports and become involved in this project as it moves forward.

February 2002

- EPA decision made to clean up the Upper Hudson River using environmental dredging techniques.

2003 Activities

- Community Involvement Plan public sessions and comment period
- Community Health and Safety Plan (CHASP) for design activities
- Cultural and Archeological Resources Assessment (CARA) Workplan
- Sediment processing/transfer facilities candidate sites public sessions
- Quality of life performance standards public sessions and comment period
- Engineering performance standards public sessions and comment period
- Peer review of Engineering performance standards
- Sediment sampling continues

2002 Activities (Completed)

- Hudson River Field Office opens in Ft. Edward, NY
- Community Involvement Plan (CIP) interviews, public meetings, and public availability sessions
- Cultural and Archeological Resources Assessment (CARA) public availability sessions
- Sediment sampling Administrative Order on Consent between EPA and GE signed
- Sediment sampling public availability sessions
- Sediment sampling Community Health and Safety Plan (CHASP) public comment/public sessions
- Sediment sampling begins
- Sediment processing/transfer facility siting public availability sessions

2004 Activities

- Sediment processing/transfer facility(ies) site selection public sessions

2005 Activities

- Start construction of sediment processing/transfer facility(ies)
- Community Health and Safety Plan (CHASP) for cleanup

2006 Activities

- Start of environmental dredging operations

Definitions

Sediment Sampling
Samples of river sediment are necessary to determine the precise boundaries of the dredging operation. The sampling, which began in 2002, will resume in spring 2003 with a total of approximately 30,000 samples to be taken.

Sediment Processing/Transfer Facilities
This facility or facilities will be used to dewater, and as needed, stabilize dredged sediments and transfer the dewatered and stabilized sediments by rail and/or barge to appropriate off-site landfills for disposal.

Performance Standards
Engineering and quality of life performance standards will be developed to make sure the dredging is done safely and is protective of people's health and the environment. Examples include performance standards for resuspension of PCBs during dredging and monitoring of air and noise. In addition, a Peer Review Panel made up of scientists and/or engineers will be assembled to provide an independent review of the engineering performance standards.

Community Involvement Plan (CIP)
This document will identify how EPA will continue to involve and inform the public at each stage of this project.

Public Input Points and Meetings
A successful cleanup of the Hudson River requires interaction with the public to receive input and share plans and proposals. EPA will hold numerous public sessions and ask community members for their thoughts and questions.