

food, soil, air or water. breathing, eating or touching. Exposure to PCBs from the Hudson can come from To be exposed means that a substance comes in contact with the body through

How can I be exposed to PCBs from the Hudson River?

details about specific water systems. Lower river water supplies are less likely to be affected by dredging, but PCB samples will be collected routinely to confirm that is the case. See the inside map for more continues to effectively remove PCBs from their water supplies. the Hudson River. Stillwater is using a USEPA-installed PCB treatment system, which not be necessary unless the suppliers resume use of their public water intakes from USEPA and General Electric. Public water supply monitoring at these locations will alternate water source from Troy through a water line installed and operated by the already taken action to protect their supplies. Halfmoon and Waterford are using an Upper river water supplies, with the highest potential to be affected by dredging, have will be modified, if needed. exceeded in the river, the cause will be investigated, addressed and dredging activities indicator of any problems. During dredging, if the PCB drinking water standard is Dam, which is 30 miles north of the nearest public water intake, serves as the earliest to provide an early warning of increases in PCB levels. Sampling at the Thompson Island web (see 1. *under More Information*, back page). These in-river samples are intended and NYSDDEC (Department of Environmental Conservation). Results are posted on the water supplies and river water. River water results are reported to the USEPA, NYSDOH typically found in the river water. PCB samples are being collected from both public During dredging, the levels of PCBs in the Hudson will likely rise above the levels

During dredging, what will be done to protect public drinking water?

miles from the dredging site. the dredging site, the Halfmoon intake is 36 miles away and the Waterford intake is 38 installed PCB treatment system. The Stillwater supply wells are about 26 miles from and Waterford are using an alternate water supply from Troy. Stillwater is using a USEPA-river water systems that could be most influenced by Hudson River dredging. Halfmoon that is replenished by the river. Stillwater, Halfmoon, and Waterford are the three upper water supplies have intakes in the river or use water that is drawn from the groundwater also shows the locations of the public water supplies downstream of these areas. These The inside map shows the areas of the Hudson River that will be dredged in Phase 2. It

How close are the dredging locations to public water supplies?

been completed. Phase 2 is starting May 2011. Record of Decision (ROD) that called for dredging of the Upper Hudson. Phase 1 has Hudson River. In 2002, the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) issued a from its capacitor manufacturing plants at Hudson Falls and Fort Edward into the From approximately 1947 to 1977, General Electric Company (GE) discharged PCBs

How did PCBs get in the Hudson River?

fish and other animals. 1970s. PCB levels build up in the environment (river sediments) and also in the fat of commercial and electrical products until their manufacture was banned in the mid-individual compounds. PCBs were used in transformers, capacitors and other PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) are a group of chemicals consisting of 209

What are PCBs?

How can PCBs affect health?

The risk of health effects from any chemical, including PCBs, depends on the amount of chemical exposure. The amount of exposure depends on the concentration of the chemical and the length of exposure. It also depends on individual characteristics, such as a person’s age at the time of exposure. All Americans are exposed to PCBs and have low levels of PCBs in their bodies.

Studies of industrial workers exposed to PCBs identified several health effects. Animal studies identified many health effects from exposure to PCBs, including reproductive problems and cancer. Typical exposures associated with PCBs in Hudson River fish, floodplain soil, air and water are unlikely to result in PCB doses as high as those that caused health effects in workers and animals. However, some studies of people in the general population of the U.S. and other countries suggest the possibility that lower levels of exposure, primarily from diet, also may cause health effects.

More information is available at these web sites:

- Hudson River Dredging Data**
www.hudsondredgingdata.com
- New York State Department of Health Hudson River Information**
www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/hudson_river
- Concerns About Surface Water as a Drinking Water Source**
www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/surface_water_fact_sheet.htm
- Fish Advisories for the Hudson River**
www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/fish/docs/hudson_river.pdf
- PCBs and the Upper Hudson River Floodplain**
www.epa.gov/hudson/floodplains.htm
- Home Water Treatment Devices: The National Sanitation Foundation**
www.nsf.org/consumer/drinking_water/dw_treatment.asp?program=WaterTre
- Frequently Asked Questions about PCBs: The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry**
www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tf.asp?id=140&tid=26
- Community Advisory Group: Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site**
www.hudsoncag.ene.com/default.htm
- GE: The Hudson River Dredging Project**
www.hudsondredging.com/

For additional information, contact the New York State Department of Health at **518-402-7530** or (800) 458-1158 or ceheduc@health.ny.gov.

Protecting Public Health During the Hudson River PCB Dredging Project in 2011

Some people are concerned about whether the dredging project will affect their public drinking water or increase their exposure to PCBs.

In 2008, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) collected PCB samples at nine public drinking water supplies along the Hudson River to provide information about PCB levels before dredging. In 2009, the NYSDOH compared samples taken before dredging to samples taken during dredging. No changes were seen in the Lower Hudson and all samples met drinking water standards for PCBs. NYSDOH will continue monitoring in 2011 during this next phase of dredging (Phase 2) to ensure that public water systems meet the drinking water standards for PCBs. If needed, plans are in place to protect public water supplies.

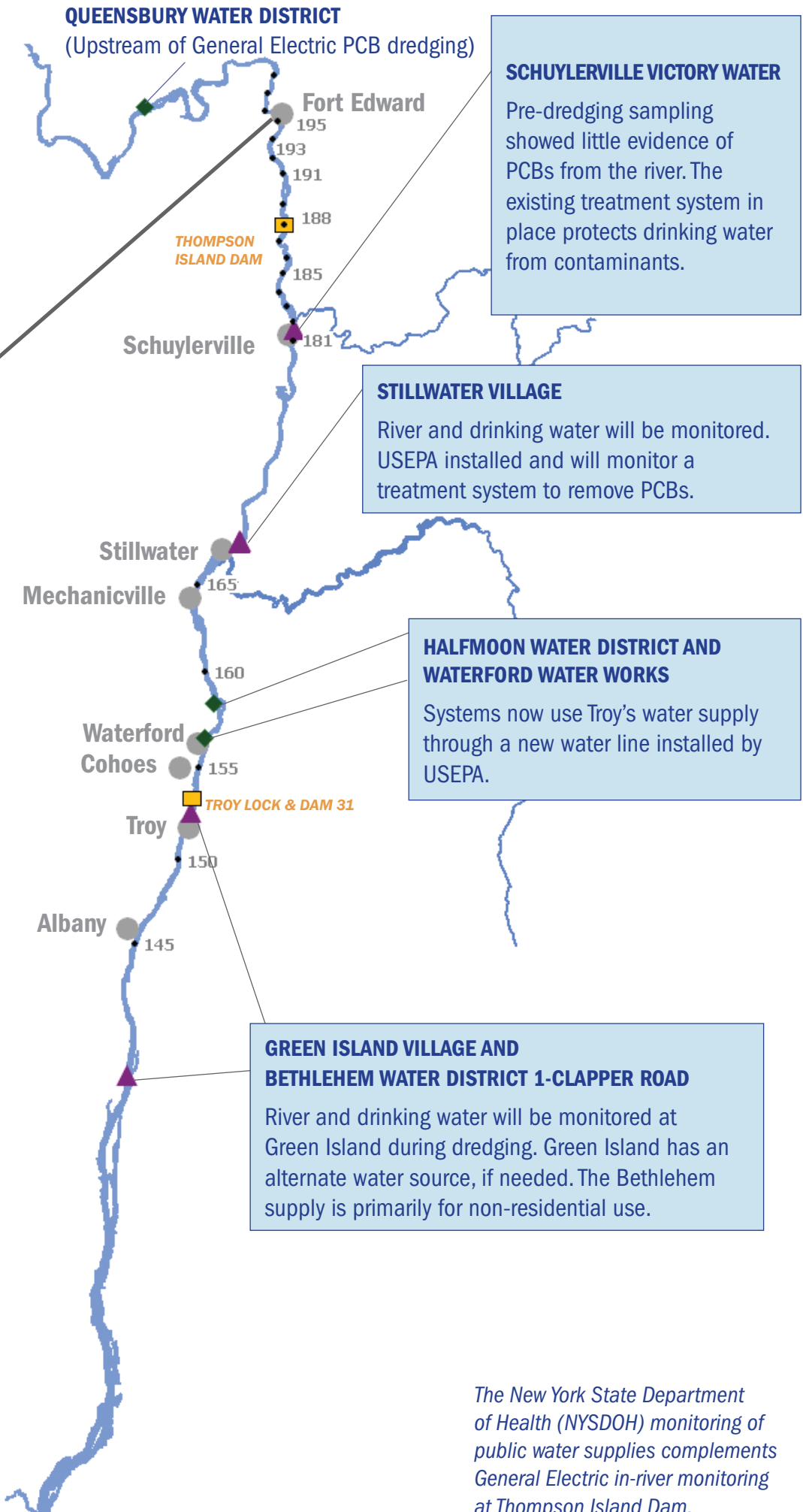
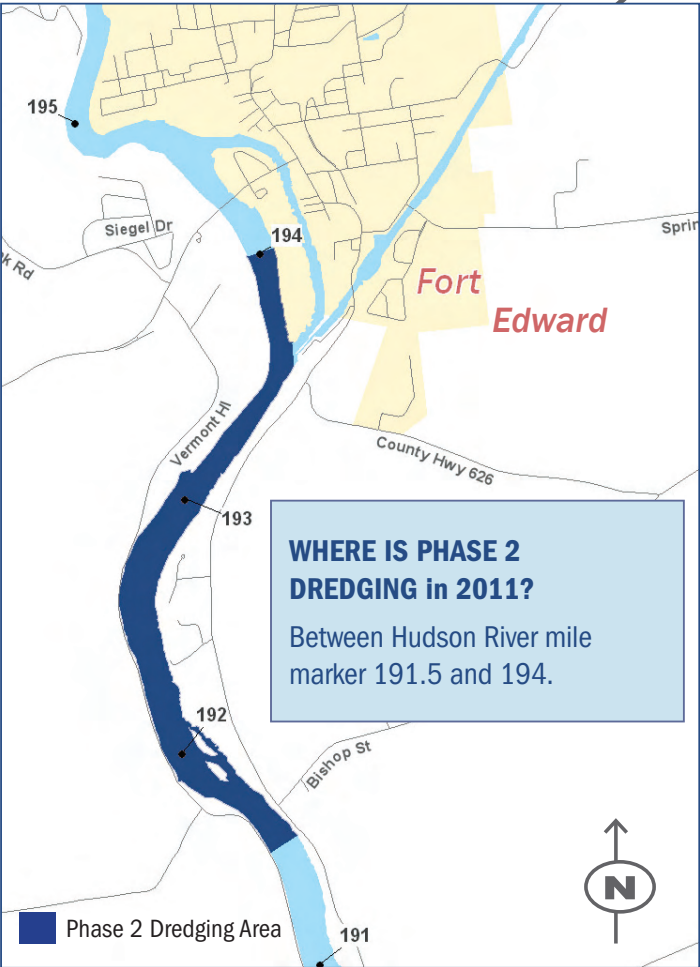
This brochure provides more information about PCBs and the public drinking water supplies along the Hudson River.



MAP INSIDE

Protecting Drinking Water Supplies During General Electric PCB Dredging

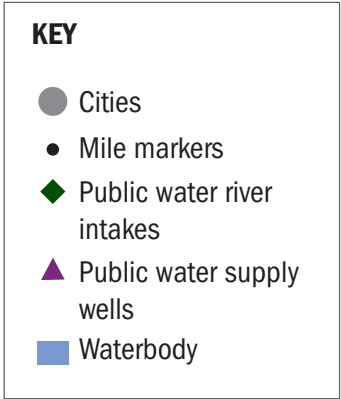
The New York State Department of Health is working with the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to take actions to protect public drinking water during dredging. Drinking water supplies are being monitored. Halfmoon and Waterford water supplies are using an alternate water source. Stillwater is using a USEPA-installed and operated PCB treatment system. Other water supply systems will take action if necessary. If drinking water standards are not met in river water, the cause will be investigated, and, if needed, activities will be modified.



LOWER RIVER – FROM RHINEBECK TO CASTLE POINT (INCLUDING POUGHKEEPSIE)

It is unlikely that the lower river will see higher contaminant levels because of distance from dredging and dilution as water travels down the river. Monitoring data from Phase I showed this to be true. Water will be monitored at Rhinebeck, Port Ewen and Poughkeepsie supplies. If a problem is found in the upper river, changes will occur that protect the lower river.

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) monitoring of public water supplies complements General Electric in-river monitoring at Thompson Island Dam, Schuylerville, Stillwater, Waterford, Albany, and Poughkeepsie. General Electric provides these results to the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and NYSDOH (see 1. under More Information, back page).



1" = 8 miles