



Hudson River

PCBs SUPERFUND SITE

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

Quality of Life Performance Standards Air Quality

December 2003

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Highlights

This fact sheet is one of six that have been created to assist the public in the review of the draft quality of life performance standards developed to minimize the impacts of the Hudson River cleanup on local communities. It describes the primary components of the performance standard for potential air quality impacts from the project. Information on the performance standards for odor, noise, lighting and navigation can be found in a general overview and in individual fact sheets on these topics, and in the Draft Quality of Life Performance Standards document, which is available for public review and comment.

The public comment period for the draft quality of life performance standards begins on December 19, 2003 and ends on February 17, 2004.

Background

The February 2002 Record of Decision (ROD) for the Hudson River PCBs Superfund site requires the development of performance standards that set specific goals and requirements for the project. The quality of life performance standards are intended to reduce the effects of the dredging; sediment processing, transferring, and dewatering; and support operations on people, businesses, recreation, and community activities in the project area. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will review project design plans for consistency with the quality of life performance standards and will oversee cleanup activities to ensure that they are met.

Air Quality Standard

Various cleanup activities such as sediment handling and processing could result in the release of pollutants into the air. The standard for air quality addresses the potential exposure of both adults and children in the project area to emissions from the project. The goal of the air quality standard is to minimize effects on people's health and the environment from air emissions during the cleanup. The primary pollutant identified as a potential risk to human health is PCBs. Other air pollutants such as particulates and ozone (from project-related equipment emissions) also pose potential risks.

Possible PCB emissions may occur when sediments are temporarily held at the processing/transfer facilities.

Emissions from the sediment can be controlled using several methods, including covering it and keeping it moist. Emissions from the held material will be monitored as described below.

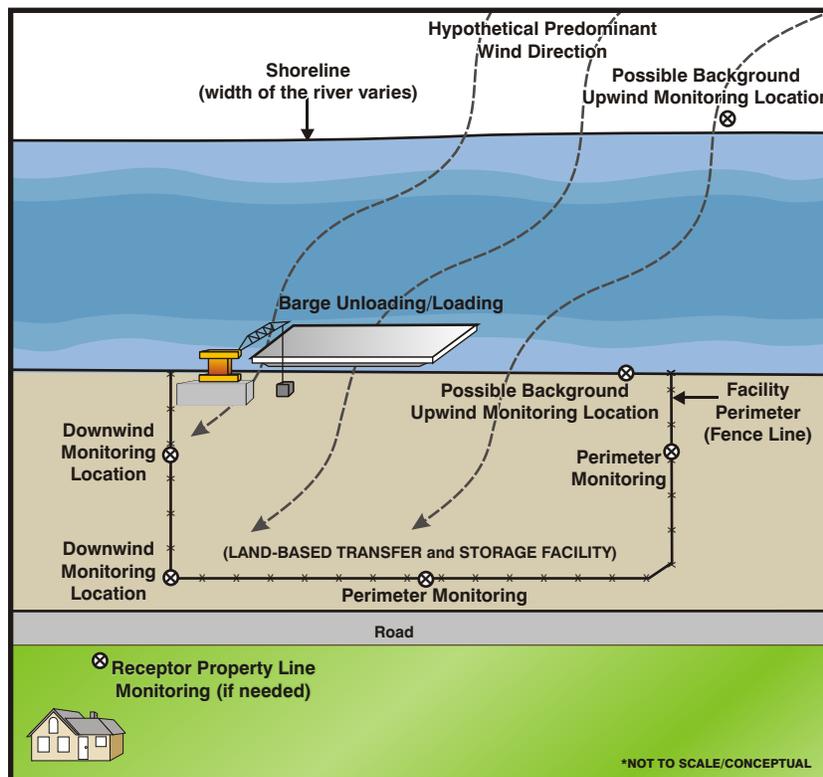
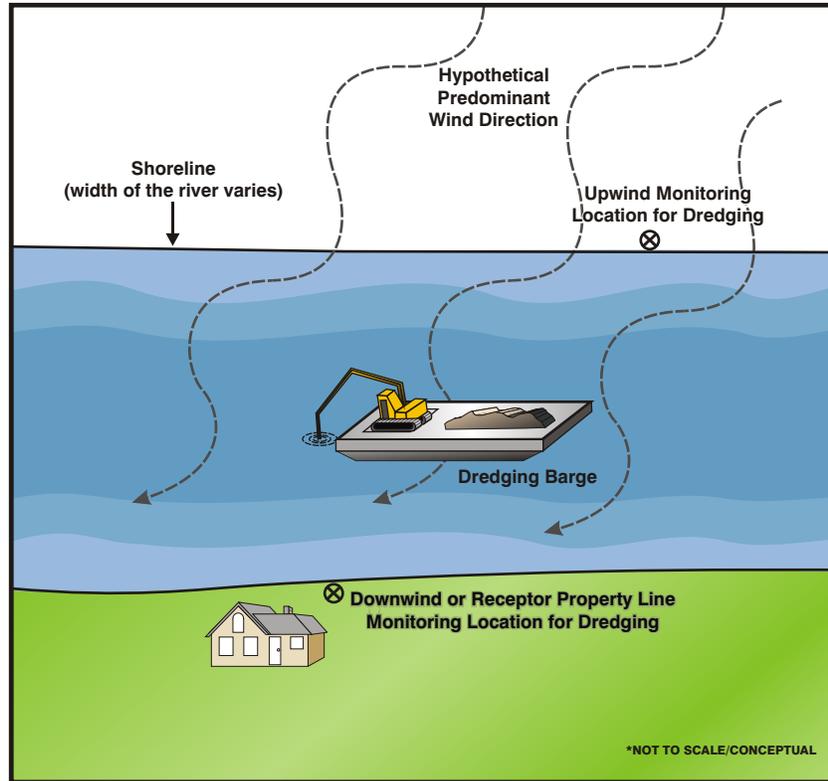
The standard for air quality has both monitoring and design requirements. Air emissions will be evaluated during the design of the project to predict the amount of project-related emissions from PCBs and other pollutants such as ozone, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, particulate matter, and volatile organic compounds released during cleanup operations. This evaluation will assist in the selection of appropriate controls and actions needed to minimize effects of air emissions on human health and the environment.

Since PCBs are the primary pollutant in the sediment, monitoring will be conducted during the cleanup to demonstrate compliance with the following standard:

Pollutant	Performance Standard	Monitoring Frequency
PCBs (Residential Areas)	0.11 micrograms per cubic meter	Daily (24-hour) basis
PCBs (Commercial/Industrial Areas)	0.26 micrograms per cubic meter	Daily (24-hour) basis

Compliance with the Air Quality Standard

The standard for air quality calls for monitoring PCBs in the air at sampling locations. Monitoring will be done for other pollutants, if needed, based on the results of the design. Air monitoring stations will be placed around the perimeter of the sediment processing area and at upwind and downwind dredging locations. (See the figures below for conceptual drawings of monitoring locations.)



The actions required to comply with the standard during the cleanup will be guided by the following:

- *If the air quality standard is not exceeded (typical operations), operations will continue as designed, with regular reporting to EPA.*
- *If the air quality standard is exceeded and it can be easily and immediately controlled:*
 - the exceedance will be investigated,
 - appropriate steps will be taken to resolve the exceedance, and
 - follow-up reporting to EPA will be conducted.
- *If the exceedance cannot be easily or immediately controlled:*
 - the exceedance will be investigated,
 - additional monitoring will be performed as needed,
 - an action plan will be developed and implemented, and
 - EPA will be notified within 24 hours of discovery, and a detailed report will be prepared.

EPA will evaluate the methods and frequency of sampling and monitoring as the project proceeds and will consider any necessary changes when appropriate.

EPA will work with local officials and communities through various stakeholder groups, including the Community Advisory Group (CAG), to keep them up-to-date on compliance with the performance standards. EPA and/or personnel responsible for day-to-day operations will provide updates through verbal and/or written notifications and regularly scheduled stakeholder and CAG meetings.



Public Review

The Draft Quality of Life Performance Standards document is available at the information repositories located in Glens Falls, Ft. Edward (Hudson River Field Office), Ballston Spa, Albany, Poughkeepsie, New York City (EPA Region 2 offices) and in Edgewater, New Jersey. Electronic versions can be found on the EPA project Web site (www.epa.gov/ HUDSON). Copies are also available in print and on CD-ROM by calling the Hudson River Field Office. The public can submit comments in writing via hard copy and email. All comments should be sent to:



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For More Information

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

EPA Contacts

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EPA Regional Public Liaison

EPA Region 2 has designated a public liaison as a point-of-contact for community concerns and questions about the federal Superfund program in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. To support this effort, the Agency has established a 24-hour, toll-free number that the public can call to request information, express concerns, or register complaints about Superfund. The public liaison for EPA's Region 2 office is: George H. Zachos, U.S. EPA, Region 2, 2890 Woodbridge Avenue MS-211, Edison, New Jersey 08837, (732) 321-6621, Toll-free (888) 283-7626.