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Introduction

This document describes the quality of life performance standards that will be incorporated into the Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site remedial design (RD) and used to monitor the performance of the remedial action (RA). These performance standards were prepared as required by the Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site Record of Decision (ROD). The project shall be designed to meet the final quality of life performance standards. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), which will enforce the performance standards, will also review the RD to confirm that the design is completed in accordance with the performance standards.

This document provides the public with information regarding development of the performance standards and describes the recommended standards. Additional information regarding the project and the contents and structure of this document are presented below.

1.1 Background Information

The ROD for the Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site was issued by the USEPA on February 1, 2002. The ROD specifies that the selected remedy include dredging and off-site disposal (i.e., outside the Hudson River Valley) of approximately 2.65 million cubic yards of PCB-contaminated sediments from the Upper Hudson River portion of the site. Beneficial-use options for portions of the dredged sediments also will be evaluated during the design phase (USEPA 2002). The ROD identifies specific reaches of the Upper Hudson River (i.e., River Sections 1, 2, and 3) where the dredging activity will occur. River Sections 1, 2, and 3 extend from the former Fort Edward Dam to the Federal Dam at Troy (see Figure 1-1) (USEPA December 2000). The RD and the RA involve the removal, processing, transport, and disposal of the PCB-contaminated sediments.

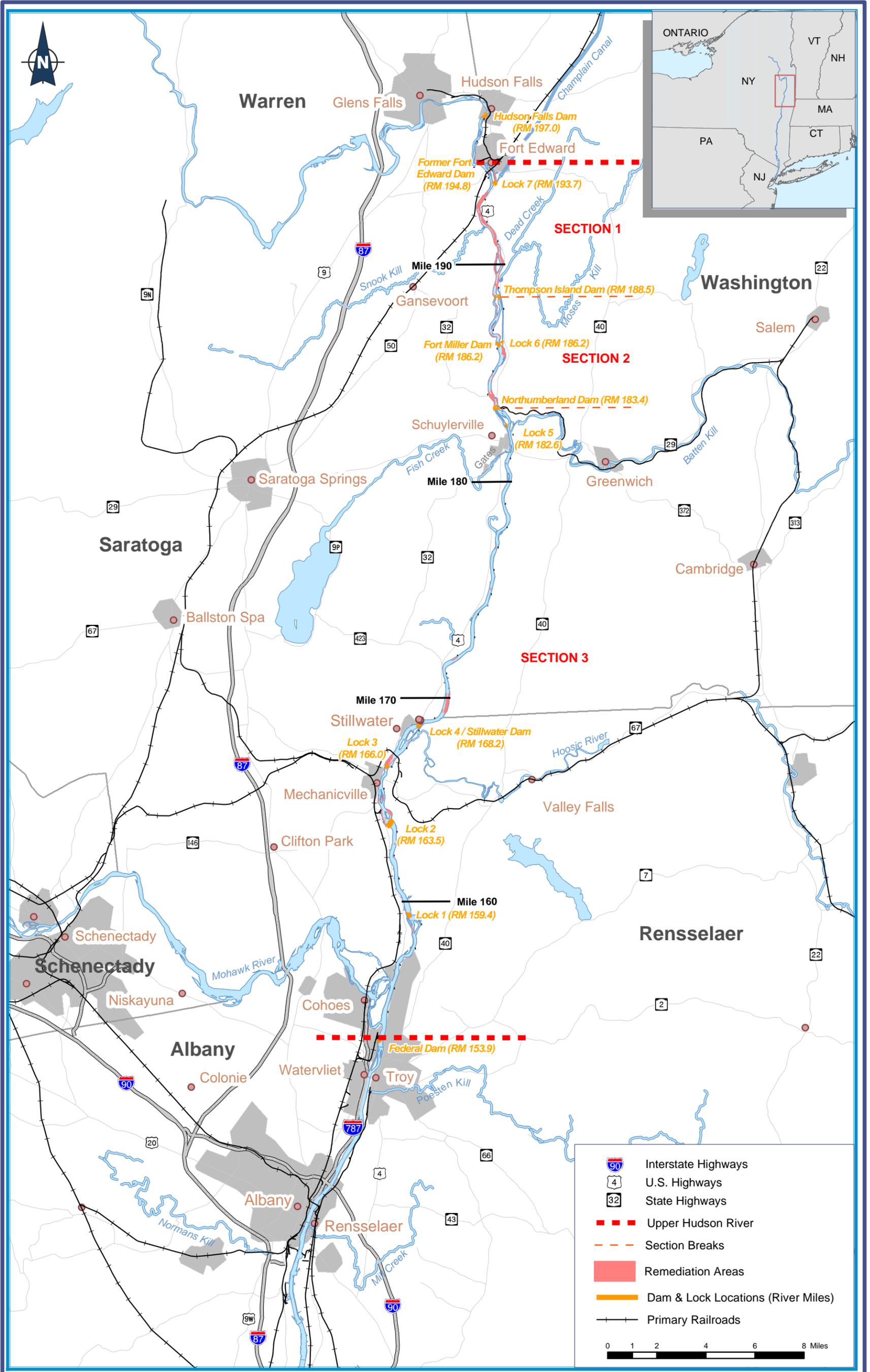
The ROD requires the development of performance standards that will serve as specific goals and requirements under which the remedial activities are to be implemented. The quality of life performance standards described in this document are separate and distinct from the engineering performance standards. The engineering performance standards address dredging-related resuspension, dredging residuals, and dredging productivity. The final engineering performance standards were issued in April 2004 (Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.).

The performance standards that address community impacts are the quality of life performance standards that are the subject of this document. These performance standards are based on regulations and objective environmental and scientific criteria. The USEPA has developed the quality of life performance standards as part of its ongoing consultation with New York State agencies, the federal Natural Resources Trustees, and the public.

1.2 Structure and Content of this Document

The types of activities expected to occur during the RA were used to develop the quality of life performance standards. Section 2 summarizes these activities (e.g., dredging, transport, and treatment). Section 3 describes the performance standards. Sections 4 and 5 provide a discussion of the potential impacts of the remedial activities on the community and how quality of life performance standards are developed. Section 6 specifies the performance standards, and Section 7 discusses the procedures that will be used to refine the standards, if necessary.

This document is based on the ROD, the Responsiveness Summary (RS) (TAMS Consultants, Inc. January 2002), and various other project documents. Therefore, it should be noted that some of the concepts, discussions, and conclusions set forth in those documents are included herein. Where direct quotations are used, a reference is provided.



SOURCE ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT, INC. 2002, ESRI 2002, USEPA 2002a
Note: RM = River Miles

Figure 1-1: Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site Project Area, Upper Hudson River