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## *List of Abbreviations and Acronyms*



## 5. List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

AOC	Administrative Order on Consent
CAG	Community Advisory Group
C.A.R.E.	(Hudson River) Citizens Along the River's Edge
CBI	Consensus Building Institute
CEASE	Citizen Environmentalists Against Sludge Encapsulation
CENP	Community Education and Notification Plan
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986
CHASP	Community Health and Safety Plan
CIC	Community Involvement Coordinator
CIP	Community Involvement Plan
CMP	Complaint Management Program
EJ	Environmental Justice
EPA	(U.S.) Environmental Protection Agency
ESD	Explanation of Significant Difference
FOCH	Friends of a Clean Hudson
FS	Feasibility Study
GE	General Electric Company
GIS	Geographic Information System
HRFO	Hudson River Field Office
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NCP	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPL	National Priorities List
NYSCC	New York State Canal Corporation

## ***5. List of Abbreviations and Acronyms***

NYSDEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
NYSDOH	New York State Department of Health
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
PRP	Potentially Responsible Party
QA/QC	Quality Assurance/Quality Control
RA	Remedial Action
RD	Remedial Design
RI/FS	Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
RM	River Mile
ROD	Record of Decision
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
TAG	Technical Assistance Grant
TASC	Technical Assistance Service for Communities
TI	Thompson Island
TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USDOJ	United States Department of Justice
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
WCS	Waste Control Specialists

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## *Glossary*



<b>Administrative Order on Consent</b>	A legal agreement signed by the EPA and an individual, business, or other entity through which the entity agrees to take an action, refrain from an activity, or pay certain costs. It describes the actions to be taken, applies to civil actions, and can be enforced in court. In limited instances it may be subject to a public comment period.
<b>Administrative Record</b>	The body of documents that “forms the basis” for the selection of a particular response at a site. For example, the Administrative Record for remedy selection includes all documents that were “considered or relied upon” to select the remedy through the record of decision.
<b>Advisory</b>	State-generated health warning regarding the consumption of contaminated animals (e.g., fish, waterfowl). These advisories include advice on how to reduce exposures to chemical contaminants in fish and game by avoiding or reducing consumption and by the use of filleting/trimming and cooking techniques to further reduce contaminant levels. In New York State, these advisories are issued by the New York State Department of Health (see Appendix J.)
<b>Air Quality Standards</b>	The level of pollutants prescribed by regulations that are not to be exceeded during a given time in a defined area.
<b>Carcinogen</b>	Any substance that can cause or aggravate cancer.
<b>Cleanup</b>	Actions taken to deal with a release or threat of release of a hazardous substance that could affect humans and/or the environment. The term “cleanup” is sometimes used interchangeably with the terms “remedial action,” “remediation,” “removal action,” “response action,” or “corrective action.”
<b>Community</b>	An interacting population of various types of individuals (or species) in a common location; a neighborhood or specific area where people live.
<b>Community Advisory Group (CAG)</b>	A Community Advisory Group (CAG) is a committee, task force, or board made up of residents affected by a Superfund or other hazardous waste site. A CAG provides a way for representatives of diverse community interests to present and discuss their needs and concerns related to the site and the site cleanup process. CAGs are a community initiative and responsibility. They function independently of the EPA.

<b>Community Health and Safety Plan (CHASP)</b>	The purpose of the Community Health and Safety Plan (CHASP) is to ensure that the work associated with the sampling, construction, and dredging operations is performed in a manner that is safe for the public and the environment and, in the event of an accident, provides a prompt and effective response.
<b>Community Involvement</b>	The term used by the EPA to identify its process for engaging in dialogue and collaboration with communities affected by Superfund sites. EPA community involvement is founded in the belief that people have a right to know what the Agency is doing in their community and to have a say in it. Its purpose is to give people the opportunity to become involved in the Agency's activities and to help shape the decisions that are made.
<b>Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC)</b>	The EPA official whose lead responsibility is to involve and inform the public about the Superfund process and response actions in accordance with the interactive community involvement requirements set forth in the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP).
<b>Community Involvement Plan (CIP)</b>	A management and planning tool outlining the specific community involvement activities to be undertaken during the course of a site investigation and cleanup. It is designed to 1) provide for two-way communication between the affected community and the EPA, and 2) ensure public input into the decision-making process related to the affected communities.
<b>Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986</b>	Commonly known as Superfund, CERCLA is intended to protect human health and the environment by investigating and cleaning up abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. Under the program, the EPA either can pay for a site cleanup when parties responsible for the contamination cannot be located or are unwilling or unable to perform the work, or take legal action to force parties responsible for site contamination to clean up the site or repay the federal government for the cleanup cost.

<b>Consent Decree</b>	A legal document, approved by a judge, that formalizes an agreement reached between the EPA and potentially responsible parties (PRPs) through which PRPs will conduct all or part of a cleanup action at a Superfund site; cease or correct actions or processes that are polluting the environment; or otherwise comply with the EPA-initiated regulatory enforcement actions to resolve the contamination at the Superfund site involved. The consent decree describes the actions PRPs will take, is subject to a public comment period prior to its approval by a judge, and is enforceable as a final judgment by a court.
<b>Contaminant</b>	Any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter that has an adverse effect on air, water, or soil.
<b>Contamination</b>	Introduction into water, air, and soil of microorganisms, chemicals, toxic substances, wastes, or wastewater in a concentration that makes the medium unfit for its next intended use. Also applies to surfaces of objects, buildings, and various household use products.
<b>Cultural Resource</b>	A term used to describe buildings, landscapes, archaeological sites, ethnographic resources, objects and documents, structures and districts that have significant meaning and embody a rich heritage of human experiences and cultural identities.
<b>Damage Assessment Plan</b>	A plan created by state and federal agencies and reviewed by the public that serves as a means of evaluating whether the approach used for assessing damages is likely to be cost-effective and meets the definition of reasonable costs; includes a description of the natural resources and geographical areas involved, the methodologies proposed for injury assessment, and a statement of trusteeship.
<b>Damages</b>	The amount of money sought by the Natural Resources Trustees as compensation for injury, destruction, or loss of natural resources as set forth in section 107(a) or 111(b) of CERCLA.
<b>Drinking Water Supply</b>	Any raw or unfinished water source that is or may be used by a public water system, as defined by the Safe Drinking Water Act, or as drinking water by one or more individuals.
<b>Ecosystem</b>	The complex of a community and its environment functioning as an ecological unit in nature.

<b>Emission</b>	Pollution discharged into the atmosphere from smokestacks, other vents, and surface areas of commercial or industrial facilities, from residential chimneys, and from motor vehicle, locomotive, or aircraft exhausts.
<b>Endangered Species</b>	Any native species in imminent danger of extinction.
<b>Engineering Performance Standards</b>	Engineering performance standards are technical requirements to help ensure that the cleanup meets the objectives for protecting people's health and the environment as set forth in the ROD. They have been developed to make sure the dredging is done safely and stays on schedule. The ROD requires the development of dredging-related resuspension, dredging residuals, and dredging productivity engineering performance standards.
<b>Environment</b>	The sum of all external conditions affecting the life, development, and survival of an organism.
<b>Environmental/Ecological Risk</b>	The potential for adverse effects on living organisms associated with pollution of the environment by effluents, emissions, wastes, or accidental chemical releases; by energy use; or by the depletion of natural resources.
<b>Environmental Justice</b>	The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, culture, education, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Implies that no population of people should be forced to shoulder a disproportionate share of negative environmental impacts of pollution or environmental hazard due to a lack of political or economic strength levels.
<b>Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD)</b>	A document regarding a significant change to the Record of Decision when new information is discovered about a site or difficulties are encountered during the remedial design/remedial action phase of cleanup. An ESD is included in the Administrative Record to inform the public of any significant changes that are being made to the selected remedy.

<b>Feasibility Study (FS)</b>	Analysis of the practicality of a proposal (e.g., a description and analysis of potential cleanup alternatives for a site such as one on the National Priorities List). The FS usually recommends selection of a cost-effective alternative. It usually starts as soon as the remedial investigation (RI) is under way; together, they are commonly referred to as the “RI/FS.”
<b>Floodplain</b>	Low-lying lands near rivers that are submerged when the river overflows its banks.
<b>Focus Groups</b>	Focus groups are facilitated discussions about the site and the community’s concerns voiced by small groups of stakeholders. Focus groups are a useful tool for understanding stakeholders’ opinions on site activities, why they feel as they do, and their needs and expectations. By holding separate focus group sessions with different groups, the Site Team can find out how the community will react to different proposals being considered in negotiations.
<b>Geographic Information System (GIS)</b>	A computer-based tool for analyzing and mapping things that exist and events that happen on Earth. GIS technology integrates common database operations, such as query and statistical analysis, with the unique visualization and geographic analysis benefits offered by maps.
<b>Habitat</b>	A place where a plant or animal species naturally exists.
<b>Hazardous Substance</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Any material that poses a threat to human health and/or the environment. Typical hazardous substances are toxic, corrosive, ignitable, explosive, or chemically reactive.</li><li>2. Any substance designated by the EPA to be reported if a designated quantity of the substance is spilled in the waters of the United States or is otherwise released into the environment.</li></ol>
<b>Hazardous Waste</b>	By-products that can pose a substantial or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly managed. Possesses at least one of four characteristics (ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity) or appears on special EPA lists.
<b>Hazardous Waste Landfill</b>	An excavated or engineered site where hazardous waste is deposited and covered.

<b>Health Assessment</b>	An evaluation of available data on existing or potential risks to human health posed by a Superfund site. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is required to perform such an assessment at every site on the National Priorities List.
<b>Information Repository</b>	A file containing current information, technical reports, and reference documents regarding a site. The information repository usually is located in a public building convenient for local residents such as a public school, town hall, or library.
<b>Lead Agency</b>	An agency such as the EPA or other federal agencies and state agencies that plan and implement response actions under the NCP (e.g., the agency that has the primary responsibility for coordinating a CERCLA response action).
<b>Listserv</b>	The EPA-Hudson listserv is a free, subscription-based electronic news distribution system used by the EPA to distribute updates, notifications, and progress reports via email and is the fastest way to get the latest information. Listserv cannot be used to transmit graphics and photos. All information conveyed via Listserv will be text-only. The EPA will make graphics-rich documents available on the Agency's Hudson River Web site in .pdf format
<b>Lower Hudson River</b>	The stretch of the Hudson River between the Federal Dam at Troy (River Mile 153.9) and the Battery in Manhattan (River Mile 0).
<b>Mid-Hudson River</b>	A geographic subset of the Lower Hudson River that runs from the Federal Dam at Troy (River Mile 153.9) to the City of Bacon (River Mile 60) in Dutchess County. This definition is used primarily for demographic purposes.
<b>Mitigation</b>	Measures taken to reduce adverse impacts on the environment.
<b>Monitoring</b>	Periodic or continuous surveillance or testing to determine the level of compliance with statutory requirements and/or pollutant levels in various media or in humans, plants, and animals.

<b>National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP)</b>	The federal regulations that guide the Superfund program. The purpose of the NCP is to provide the organizational structure and procedures for preparing for and responding to discharges of oil and releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants.
<b>National Priorities List (NPL)</b>	The EPA's list of serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified for possible long-term cleanup under Superfund. The list is based primarily on the score a site receives from the Hazard Ranking System. The EPA is required to update the NPL at least once a year.
<b>Natural Attenuation</b>	The natural process (i.e., unaided by human intervention) by which a contaminant is reduced in concentration over time through absorption, adsorption, degradation, dilution, and/or transformation.
<b>Natural Resources</b>	Land, fish, wildlife, air, water, groundwater, drinking water supplies, and other such resources belonging to, managed by, or controlled by the United States, a state or local government, any foreign government, any Indian tribe, or any member of an Indian tribe.
<b>Natural Resource Trustee</b>	CERCLA and the OPA (Oil Pollution Act) authorize the United States, states, and Indian Tribes to act on behalf of the public as Natural Resource Trustees for natural resources under their respective trusteeship. Injuries to natural resources may occur at sites as a result of releases of hazardous substances or oil. Trustees use NRDA's (see below) to assess injury to natural resources held in the public trust. This is an initial step toward restoring injured resources and services and toward compensating the public for their loss.
<b>National Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)</b>	The process of collecting, compiling, and analyzing information, statistics, or data to determine damages for injuries to natural resources.
<b>Performance Standards</b>	Specific levels of performance that site activities must achieve; often incorporated by reference into the Record of Decision. The inclusion of such performance standards enables the Agency to assure measurable levels of cleanup that provide the protection desired.
<b>Pollutant</b>	Generally, any substance introduced into the environment that adversely affects the usefulness of a resource or the health of humans, animals, or ecosystems.

<b>Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)</b>	A group of chemicals composed of 209 congeners, consisting of a biphenyl ring with between one and 10 chlorine atoms attached, known to be persistent in the environment and to cause adverse effects in organisms.
<b>Potentially Responsible Party (PRP)</b>	An individual, company, or other entity (such as owners, operators, transporters, or generators of hazardous waste) potentially responsible for, or contributing to, the contamination problems at a Superfund site. When possible, the EPA requires a PRP, through administrative and legal actions, to clean up hazardous waste sites that it has contaminated.
<b>Proposed Plan</b>	A plan for a site cleanup that is available to the public for comment.
<b>Productivity Performance Standards</b>	The productivity standard is designed to keep the dredging work on track to meet the goal of completing the project within a six-year period. The productivity standard defines the total project sediment volumes to be dredged by the end of each project phase and dredging season, based on the current estimate of 1.795 million cubic yards of sediment to be removed.
<b>Public</b>	The community or people in general or a part or section of the community grouped because of a common interest or activity.
<b>Public Availability Session</b>	Informal public sessions that often use poster displays and fact sheets and that include EPA personnel and contractors who are available to discuss issues and answer questions. Public availability sessions offer the public the opportunity to learn about project-related issues and to interact with the EPA on a one-to-one basis. Public availability sessions do not require the use of court reporters and transcripts, although meeting summaries may be issued through newsletters and progress reports.
<b>Public Comment Period</b>	A formal opportunity for community members to review and contribute written comments on various EPA documents or actions.

<b>Public Forum</b>	Semi-formal public sessions that are characterized by a presentation, question-and-answer session, and a less formal poster/display session. This format allows members of the public to participate in both large and small group settings. Public forums do not require the use of court reporters and transcripts, although meeting summaries may be issued through newsletters and progress reports.
<b>Public Meeting</b>	Formal public sessions that are characterized by a presentation to the public followed by a question-and-answer session. Formal public meetings may involve the use of a court reporter and the issuance of transcripts. Formal public meetings are required only for the Proposed Plan and ROD amendments.
<b>Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC)</b>	A system of procedures, checks, audits, and corrective actions to ensure that all EPA research design and performance, environmental monitoring and sampling, and other technical and reporting activities are of the highest achievable quality.
<b>Quality of Life Performance Standards</b>	Quality of life performance standards are intended to help limit the impacts of the dredging, dewatering, and support operations on people, businesses, recreation, livestock, and community activities in the Upper Hudson project area. The Record of Decision for the Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site included preliminary performance standards for air and noise emissions and required the development of additional quality of life standards that address potential impacts such as lighting, navigation, and odor.
<b>Record of Decision (ROD)</b>	A public document that explains the cleanup method that will be used at a Superfund site based on EPA studies, public comments, and community concerns.
<b>Regional Public Liaison</b>	A high-level EPA employee who serves as a point of contact for members of the public who have concerns about Superfund activities. The ombudsman has the ability to look independently into problems and facilitate the communication that can lead to a solution. The regional public liaison does not have the authority to change Agency decisions but does have direct access to top management and can recommend actions to resolve legitimate complaints.
<b>Remedial Action (RA)</b>	The actual construction or implementation phase that follows the remedial design. Also referred to as site clean-up.

<b>Remedial Design (RD)</b>	The phase that follows the remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) and includes development of engineering drawings and specifications for a site cleanup.
<b>Remedial Investigation (RI)</b>	An in-depth study designed to gather data needed to determine the nature and extent of contamination at a Superfund site, establish site cleanup criteria, identify preliminary alternatives for remedial action, and support technical and cost analyses of alternatives. The remedial investigation is usually concurrent with the feasibility study. Together they are usually referred to as the “RI/FS.”
<b>Remedial Project Manager (RPM)</b>	The EPA official responsible for coordinating, monitoring, and/or directing site investigations and cleanups at National Priority List sites.
<b>Remediation</b>	Cleanup or other methods used to remove or contain a toxic spill or hazardous materials from a Superfund site.
<b>Residuals Performance Standard</b>	The residuals standard is designed to detect and manage small amounts of contaminated sediments that may remain on the river bottom after dredging in the Upper Hudson River. These “residuals” may consist of contaminated sediments that were disturbed but escaped capture by the dredge, resuspended sediments that were redeposited or that settled, and/or contaminated sediments remaining below the dredging cut lines because they were not detected by the sediment sampling program.
<b>Responsiveness Summary</b>	A summary of oral and/or written public comments received by the EPA during a comment period on key EPA documents, and the EPA’s response to those comments.
<b>Restoration</b>	Actions undertaken to return an injured resource to its baseline condition, as measured in terms of the injured resource’s physical, chemical, or biological properties, or the services it previously provided, when such actions are in addition to response actions completed or anticipated, and when such actions exceed the level of response actions determined appropriate to the site pursuant to the NCP.
<b>Resuspension Performance Standards</b>	The resuspension standard is designed to protect water intakes down river of the dredging operations and to limit the down river transport of PCB-contaminated dredged material. This will promote the recovery of the river ecosystem after dredging.

<b>Reuse</b>	Using a product or component in its original form more than once.
<b>Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)</b>	The law that ensures that water that comes from the tap in the United States is fit to drink (according to EPA national drinking water standards); this law also addresses the contamination of groundwater.
<b>Siting</b>	The process of choosing a location for a facility.
<b>Sludge</b>	A semi-solid residue from any of a number of air or water treatment processes; can be hazardous waste.
<b>Stabilization</b>	Conversion of the active organic matter in sludge into inert, harmless material.
<b>Stakeholder</b>	Any organization, governmental entity, or individual that has a stake in or may be affected by the Superfund program.
<b>Standards</b>	Norms that impose limits on the amount of pollutants or emissions produced. The EPA establishes minimum standards, but states are allowed to promulgate more stringent standards.
<b>Superfund</b>	The program operated under the legislative authority of CERCLA that funds and carries out EPA solid waste emergency and long-term removal and remedial activities. These activities include establishing the National Priorities List, investigating sites for inclusion on the list, determining their priority, and conducting and/or supervising cleanup and other remedial actions.
<b>Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)</b>	A Technical Assistance Grant provides money for activities that help communities participate in decision-making at eligible Superfund sites. An initial grant up to \$50,000 is available for any Superfund site that is on the EPA's National Priorities List or proposed for listing on the NPL and where a response action has begun. An additional \$50,000 may be provided by the EPA at complex sites. The TAG for the Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site was closed out in 2008.

<b>Technical Assistance Services for Communities Contract (TASC)</b>	The Technical Assistance Services for Communities program provides independent, non-advocacy educational and technical assistance to communities affected by hazardous waste sites regulated by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The purpose of TASC is to help communities have a better understanding of hazardous waste issues so they can participate in the hazardous waste cleanup process more effectively. TASC replaces the Technical Outreach Services for Communities (TOSC) program.
<b>Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA)</b>	First enacted in 1976, TSCA gives the EPA broad authority to regulate the manufacture, use, distribution in commerce, and disposal of chemical substances. TSCA is a federally managed law and is not delegated to states. The law is overseen by the EPA Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT).
<b>Treatment</b>	(1) Any method, technique, or process designed to remove solids and/or pollutants from solid waste, waste-streams, effluents, and air emissions. (2) Methods used to change the biological character or composition of any regulated medical waste so as to substantially reduce or eliminate its potential for causing disease.
<b>Upper Hudson River</b>	The stretch of the Hudson River between the river's origin in Lake Tear of the Clouds and the Federal Dam at Troy (River Mile 153.9).
<b>Volatilization</b>	The conversion of a chemical substance from a liquid or solid state to a gaseous vapor state.
<b>Water Quality Standards</b>	State-adopted and EPA-approved ambient standards for water bodies. The standards prescribe the use of the water body and establish the water quality criteria that must be met to protect designated uses.
<b>Wetlands</b>	An area that is saturated by surface or groundwater with vegetation adapted for life under those soil conditions, such as swamps, bogs, fens, marshes, and estuaries.
<b>Work Plan</b>	Defines both data needs and the methods needed for the analysis phase. It includes project objectives, data requirements, assessment and measurement endpoints, sampling and analysis procedures, quality assurance objectives and procedures, and a work schedule.

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