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Citizen Participation Plan ANRR.



**Citizen Participation Plan
for
Harmon Railroad Yard
Metro-North**

Site Code 3-60-010
Town of Croton-on-Hudson
Westchester County, New York

April 1989

PREPARED BY:
NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
50 Wolf Road, Albany, New York 12233
THOMAS C. JORLING, *Commissioner*

DIVISION OF HAZARDOUS WASTE REMEDIATION
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Citizen Participation Plan

METRO-NORTH
HARMON RAILROAD YARD
Croton-on-Hudson, New York
Town of Cortland
Westchester County

- 1) initiated for OVI remediation
- 2) STIP/MOU expanded the investigation for the NAPL and other contaminants
 - buried ties
 - WWTP - PCB contamination
 - environmental studies

Prepared by
Marilyn Coffey
March 1989

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SECTION I

INTRODUCTION TO PLAN

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is committed to a citizen participation program as a part of its responsibilities for the in active hazardous waste site remedial program. Citizen participation promotes public understanding of the Department's responsibilities, planning activities, and remedial activities at inactive hazardous waste disposal sites. It provides an opportunity for the Department to learn from the public information that will enable the Department to develop a comprehensive remedial program which is protective of both public health and the environment.

SECTION II

BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Where the Site Fits into the State's Remedial Program:

The Metro North Harmon Railroad Yard site has been listed in the registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites in New York State. The site has been assigned a priority classification of "2" which indicates a significant threat to the public health or environment. Action is required. Harmon Railroad yard is a potentially responsible party site.

Site Setting:

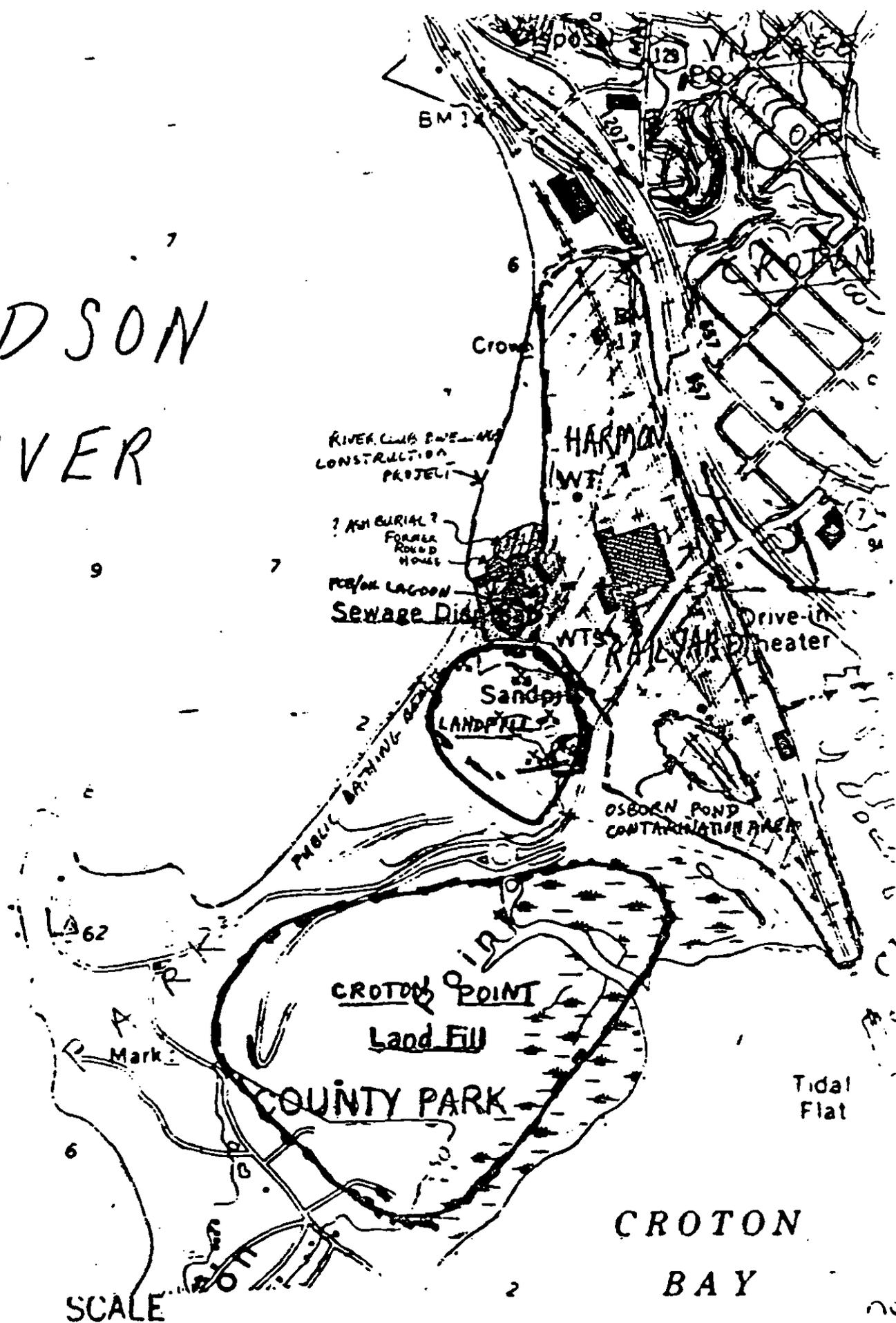
The Metro North Harmon Railroad yard is a maintenance and repair yard, operated by Metro-North Commuter Railroad, located in Croton-on-Hudson, Westchester County. This yard is approximately 100 acres in size. The wastewater treatment area, hereafter referred to as the "site", includes an equalization lagoon, pond, old and new treatment facilities and associated appurtenances. The site is located approximately 400 feet from the shoreline of the Hudson River, and immediately north of the Croton Point Landfill.

Problems Identified at Site:

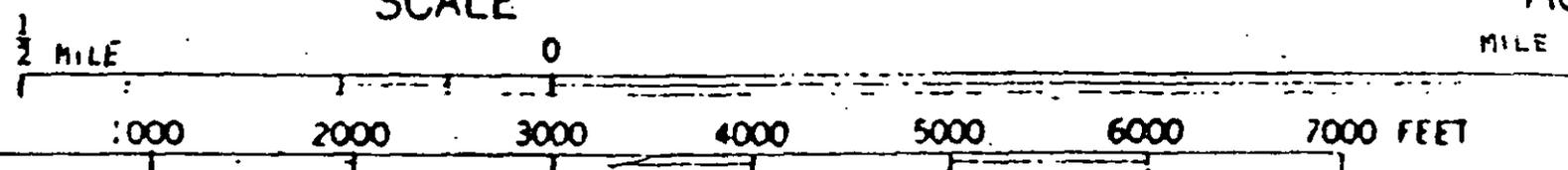
In 1980, PCBs were discovered in the effluent discharge from the old treatment plant. The source of PCBs was identified as one of the maintenance areas where empty transformers were given a final rinse. The rinseate from this activity became contaminated with residual PCBs and was conveyed to the equalization lagoon. Since the treatment process was not capable of removing PCBs, the old treatment plant, its appurtenances, the lagoon and the pond became contaminated with PCBs. Once the source of the problem was discovered, the rinsing operation at the maintenance area was discontinued and conveyance pipelines were cleaned. In addition, Metro-North contracted with O.H. Materials Co., of Findlay, Ohio to set up and operate a carbon filtration unit to ensure that subsequent discharge from the wastewater treatment area would be free of any PCBs.

In 1985, Metro-North completed construction of a new treatment plant at the site, but due to a lack of funding from the New York State Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), the proposed improvements to the equalization lagoon were postponed. This treatment plant directly handles influent wastewater streams from the maintenance areas of the yard. As such, influent wastewater streams are not contaminated with PCBs since they have not passed through the lagoon or the old treatment plant. However, the lagoon remains in-service for handling excess flows from the yard during storms. Any waste or storm water from the lagoon is treated in the old treatment

HUDSON RIVER



SCALE



SECTION III

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

OBJECTIVES:

The overall objective of the Remedial Program at the Harmon Railroad Yard site is to properly decommission, abandon, and close those areas of the site that are known to contain PCBs and oil.

Project History:

- 1980 - PCB discovered at site
Operation stopped, pipeline cleaned,
carbon filter installed.
Site placed on registry of Inactive Hazardous
Waste Sites.
- 1983 - Soil, lagoon, sludge, groundwater samples by
ERSACO
- 1985 - New treatment plant installed.
Lagoon in service to handle storm flow.
- 1988 - Above-ground equalization tank commissioned but
still unable to accept peak storm water flow.
- 1989 - Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study commenced.

Identification of Key Decision Points:

- Site placed on inactive Hazardous Waste disposal site registry in 1985 following discovery of PCB in the effluent from the old treatment plant.
- During 1985-86, Metro-North cleaned conveyance pipelines and installed carbon filtration unit to prevent further PCB discharge into the Hudson River.
- In Aug. 1988, DEC initiated reclassification of the equalization lagoon area as a Class 2 site because of high PCB concentration in the lagoon sediments. Metro-North volunteered to conduct a remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) of this area. The rest of the site, the subject of RCRA and State's Superfund Phase II studies, has been assigned a different site identification number and remains a Class 2a site.
- DEC approved Metro-North's RI/FS work plan for the lagoon area in March 1989.
- Field work for the RI/FS will commence at the end of April 1989.

SECTION IV

CONTACT LIST
ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Local -Village:

Salvatore Vassalo, Mayor, Municipal Building, P.O. Box 249,
Van Wyck St., Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520 (914) 271-4781

Richard Herbek-Manager/Clerk, Jan Wynes-Environmental Comm.,
Seymour Waldman-Village Attorney, 47 Loundsbury Road,
Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520 (914) 271-8782

Phillip Tully, P.E., Village Engineer, 4 Eklof Court,
Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520 (914) 271-5482

Town:

Charles DiGiacomo, Supervisor, Town of Cortlandt, Municipal
Building, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520 (914) 739-3522

Harriet L. Boyle, Town Clerk, Town of Cortlandt, Municipal
Building, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520 (914) 739-3522

County:

Timothy S. Carey, Legislator, 175 Sunset Road,
Montrose, NY 10548 (914) 737-8470

Patricia Hotchkiss, Legislator, Westchester County Board of
Legislators, 803 Michaelian Office Building, White Plains,
NY 10601 (914) 285-2832

Andrew P. O'Rourke, County Executive, Michaelian Office
Building, White Plains, NY 10601 (914) 285-2900

State:

Mary B. Goodhue, N.Y.S. Senate, Legislative Office Building,
Room 803, Albany, NY 12247 (518) 455-3111

George E. Pataki, N.Y.S. Assembly, Legislative Office Building,
Room 534, Albany, NY 12248 (518) 455-4166

Federal:

Hamilton Fish, Sr., U.S. House of Representatives, 2269 Rayburn
House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-5441

Frances Manacher, 217 Nelson Court, Croton-on-Hudson,
NY 10520

Edward & Susan Zakrzewski, 219 Nelson Court, Croton-on-Hudson,
NY 10520

Barbara & Philip Finn, 220 Nelson Court, Croton-on-Hudson,
NY 10520

Mal Schwartz & Janine Snow, 301 Tryon Court, Croton-on-Hudson,
NY 10520

Fred A. Cook, Jr., 104 Clinton Court, Croton-on-Hudson,
NY 10520

James & Louise Loconto, 106 Clinton Court, Croton-on-Hudson,
NY 10520

Mario & Patricia Manfredi, 107 Clinton Court, Croton-on-Hudson,
NY 10520

Rose & Stanley Teller, 109 Clinton Court, Croton-on-Hudson,
NY 10520

Mabel Fiscella, 114 Clinton Court, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520

Robert Skolnick, 115 Clinton Court, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520

Joseph F. Curto, Jr., 117 Clinton Court, Croton-on-Hudson,
NY 10520

Marjorie & Edmund Bushey, 118 Clinton Court, Croton-on-Hudson,
NY 10520

Stephen Ballas, 120 Clinton Court, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520

Donald & Hinda Sussman, 201 Nelson Court, Croton-on-Hudson,
NY 10520

Environmental Groups:

Hudson River Fishermen Association, P.O. Box 312,
Cold Spring, NY 10516 (914) 241-2313, 424-3266

Residents for Responsible Riverfront Development,
Thomas Mitchell, President, P.O. Box 333, Piermont, NY 10968

Hudson River Defense League, Roxanne Witke, Director,
P.O. Box 606, Nyack, NY 10960

Westchester County EMC, Elizabeth Sluder, Chair, 427 Michaelian
Office Building, White Plains, NY 10601 (914) 273-3127

SECTION V

IDENTIFICATION OF DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

DEC OFFICIALS:

Thomas C. Jorling, Commissioner, N.Y.S.D.E.C., Room 604, 50 Wolf Road,
Albany, NY 12233 (518) 457-3446

Joseph L. Slack, Director, Bureau of Eastern Remedial Action, 50 Wolf Road,
Albany, NY 12233 (518) 457-4349

W. Robert Foltin, Chief, Eastern Projects Section, N.Y.S.D.E.C., Room 222
50 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12233 (518) 457-1708

Ram Pergadia, Project Engineer, N.Y.S.D.E.C., 50 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12233
(518) 457-3390

Albert Klauss, Regional EQ Engineer, N.Y.S.D.E.C., Region 3,
21 South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, NY 12561-1696 (914) 255-5453

Paul D. Keller, Regional Director, N.Y.S.D.E.C., Region 3,
21 South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, NY 12561-1696 (914) 255-5453

James Harvey, Project Engineer, N.Y.S.D.E.C., Region 3, 21 South Putt Corners Rd.,
New Paltz, NY 12561-1696 (914) 255-5453

Bruce Bentley, Citizen Participation Specialist, N.Y.S.D.E.C., Room 507,
50 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12233 (518) 457-0849

Ellen Stoutenburgh, Citizen Participation Specialist, N.Y.S.D.E.C., Region 3
21 South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, NY 12561-1696 (914) 255-5453

Marilyn Coffey, Citizen Participation Specialist, N.Y.S.D.E.C., Region 3,
21 South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, NY 12561-1696 (914) 255-5453

D.E.C.'s Toll-Free Number: 1-800-342-9296

D.O.H. Contacts

William Gilday, Sanitarian, Bureau of Environmental Exposure Investigation,
NYS D.O.H. Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12237 (518) 458-6306

Robert Wasp, Westchester County D.O.H., 112 East Post Road, White Plains, NY 10601
(914) 285-5100

SECTION VI

IDENTIFICATION OF DOCUMENT REPOSITORY

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation,
21 South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, NY 12561 (914) 255-5453

Documents in Repository

- Soil Sampling & Analysis Report
- Soil Characterization at River Club
- Site Operation Plan - Harmon Lagoon
- Monitoring Well Report
- Soil and Groundwater Sampling Analysis

SECTION VII

NOTE: The citizen participation program outlined below are required to be conducted by DEC policy or regulation. The activities described represent the minimum citizen participation activities necessary. This citizen participation program will be reviewed as the project goes forward. Additional activities will be added to those listed, if deemed necessary by DEC. The activities described below may be adjusted based upon project scope, length, public interest or other factors.

Description of Citizen Participation Activities for each Major Element of the Remedial Program.

REPORT FOR THE FIRST PHASE OF THE RI/FS IS PUBLICLY AVAILABLE

Required DEC Policy Place a minimum of one copy of the report for the first phase of the RI/FS in the project's local document repository.

Required DEC Policy When the report for the first phase of the RI/FS is available, use contact list as appropriate. The first phase of the RI/FS usually includes the first set of environmental quality data describing conditions at the site and preliminary discussion of alternative remedial techniques. Purpose of the contact is to:

- briefly describe the site
- discuss objectives of the RI/FS
- summarize work completed in first phase of the RI/FS
- summarize findings
- provide schedule for remainder of RI/FS
- identify location of project's local document repository
- identify DEC contact person (also DOL and DOH, if appropriate)

FINAL DRAFT RI/FS REPORT IS PUBLICLY AVAILABLE

Required DEC Policy Place a minimum of one copy of the final draft RI/FS report in the project's local document repository.

Required Part 375.7

Hold public meeting. Purpose of the meeting is to:

- present the final draft RI/FS Report
- discuss briefly remedial alternatives considered
- describe in detail the most promising alternative and how this alternative mitigates problems at the site
- receive public comment
- present schedule for future work

Required Part 375.7

Prepare transcript of the public meeting. The transcript shall be made available for public inspection and copying in the office of the Department nearest the site as well as the project's local document repository.

Required Part 375.7

Provide at a minimum a 30-day period for submission of written comments about the final RI/FS report.

Required Part 375.7

Publish a legal notice in a local newspaper of general circulation. Purpose of the legal notice to:

- provide a brief analysis of the remedial program selected for implementation
- discuss any significant changes from the proposed remedial program
- provide a response to significant comments, criticisms and new data

- identify project's local document repository
- identify DEC contact person (also DOL and DOH, if appropriate)

Required DEC Policy

Place a minimum of one copy of final design document in the project's local document repository.

AFTER CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT IS AWARDED

Required DEC Policy

Place a minimum of one copy of the draft plans and specifications, and health and safety plans in the project's local document repository.

Required DEC Policy

Place a minimum of one copy of the final plans and specifications, health and safety plans for the remedial work in the project's local document repository.

Required DEC Policy

When the final plans and specifications, health and safety plans for the remedial work are available, use contact list as appropriate. Purpose of contact is to:

- provide brief background of site and proposed remedial plan
- describe significant elements of health and safety plans
- identify the project's local document repository
- identify DEC contact person (also DOL and DOH, if appropriate)

LONG-TERM MONITORING, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

NOTE: During the development and implementation of the long-term monitoring, operation and maintenance program at each site, a citizen participation plan will be developed. The plan will be designed to involve the public in the development of the long-term monitoring, operation and maintenance program and to keep them informed throughout the program's implementation.

SECTION VIII

GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS AND MAJOR PROGRAM ELEMENTS

APPENDIX E

DEFINITIONS OF COMMONLY USED CITIZEN PARTICIPATION TERMS

Availability Session - Schedule gathering of the Department staff and the public in a setting less formal than a public meeting. Encourages "one-to-one" discussions in which the public meets with Department staff on an individual or small group basis to discuss particular questions or concerns.

Citizen Participation - A process to inform and involve the interested/affected public in the decision-making process during identification, assessment and remediation of inactive hazardous waste sites. This process helps to assure that the best decisions are made from environmental, human health, economic, social and political perspectives.

Citizen Participation Plan - A document that describes the site-specific citizen participation activities that will take place to complement the "technical" (remedial) activities. It also provides site background and rationale for the selected citizen participation program for the site. A plan may be updated or altered as public interest or the technical aspects of the program change.

Citizen Participation Specialist - A Department staff member within the Office of Public Affairs who provides guidance, evaluation and assistance to help the Project Manager carry out his/her site-specific Citizen Participation program.

Contact List - Names, addresses and/or telephone numbers of individuals, groups, organizations and media interested and/or affected by a particular hazardous waste site. Compiled and updated by the Department. Interest in the site, stage of remediation and other factors guide how comprehensive the list becomes. Used to assist the Department to inform and involve the interested/affected public.

Document Repository - Typically a regional DEC office and/or public building, such as a library, near a particular site, at which documents related to remedial and citizen participation activities at the site are available for public review. Provides access to documents at times and a location convenient to the public. Environmental Management Councils (EMCs), Conservation Advisory Committees (CACs) as well as active local groups often can serve as supplemental document repositories.

site's remedial program. The responsiveness summary may list and respond to each question, or summarize and respond to questions in categories.

Toll-Free "800" Telephone Information Number - Provides cost-free access to the Department by members of the public who have questions, concerns or information about a particular hazardous waste site. Calls are taken and recorded 24 hours a day and a Department staff member contacts the caller as soon as possible (usually the same day).

Feasibility Study (FS) - A process for developing, evaluating and selecting remedial actions, using data gathered during the remedial investigation to: define the objectives of the remedial program for the site and broadly develop remedial action alternatives; perform an initial screening of these alternatives; and perform a detailed analysis of a limited number of alternatives which remain after the initial screening stage.

Remedial Design - Once a remedial action has been selected, technical drawings and specifications for remedial construction at a site are developed, as specified in the final RI/FS report. Design documents are used to bid and construct the chosen remedial actions. Remedial design is prepared by consulting engineers with experience in inactive hazardous waste disposal site remedial actions.

Construction - DEC selects contractors and supervises construction work to carry out the designed remedial alternative. Construction may be as straightforward as excavation of contaminated soil with disposal at a permitted hazardous waste facility. On the other hand, it may involve drum sampling and identification, complete encapsulation, leachate collection, storage and treatment, groundwater management, or other technologies. Construction costs may vary from several thousand dollars to many millions of dollars, depending on the size of the site, the soil, groundwater and other conditions, and the nature of the wastes.

Monitoring/Maintenance - Denotes post-closure activities to insure continued effectiveness of the remedial actions. Typical monitoring/maintenance activities include quarterly inspection by an engineering technician; measurement of level of water in monitoring wells; or collection of ground water and surface-water samples and analysis for factors showing the condition of water, presence of toxic substances, or other indicators of possible pollution from the site. Monitoring/maintenance may be required indefinitely at many sites.

Consent Order - A legal and enforceable negotiated agreement between the Department and responsible parties where responsible parties agree to undertake investigation and cleanup or pay for the costs of investigation and cleanup work at a site. The order includes a description of the remedial actions to be undertaken at the site and a schedule for implementation.

Contract - A legal document signed by a contractor and the Department to carry out specific site remediation activities.

Contractor - A person or firm hired to furnish materials or perform services, especially in construction projects.

Delisting - Removal of a site from the state Registry based on study which shows the site does not contain hazardous wastes.