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***Fact Sheet and Public Meeting Notice***  
**November 2001**

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**General Electric**  
**Main Plant Facility**  
**Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site**  
**Schenectady, New York**

**SITE ID # 447004**

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***REMEDIAL PROGRAM UPDATE***

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation invites you to attend an information session to review the status of remedial investigations and activities at the GE Main Plant Facility Site in Schenectady, New York. Representatives from NYSDEC and General Electric and their environmental consultants will be available to answer questions about the site. Site-related materials such as reports, maps, and data will be available for public review.

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**November 1, 2001**

**4:00 - 6:00 P.M. and 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.**

**Van Curler Room  
Schenectady County Community College  
78 Washington Avenue  
Schenectady, New York**



## **GENERAL SITE BACKGROUND**

**Setting:** The General Electric Company has maintained a manufacturing facility at the Main Plant since the 1880's. The 640-acre site lies adjacent to the Mohawk River in an industrial area of the City of Schenectady and the Town of Rotterdam. Two streams, the Poenties Kill and the Poentic Kill flow through the site and empty into the Mohawk River. The City of Schenectady and Town of Rotterdam municipal well fields are located nearby to the west of the site. Groundwater flow from the site is generally to the north to the Mohawk River. Extensive hydrologic data indicates the site is not impacting the nearby municipal well fields.

Operations have included the production of electric motors, generators, steam and gas turbines, insulated wire and cable, and microwave tubes. The site is an active manufacturing facility employing several thousand people. Currently, the Power Systems business group of GE produces large steam turbine generators which are used by major power companies to produce electricity.

The site consists of numerous manufacturing and administrative buildings, transportation, power, and other support facilities, and three major landfills (East, West, and Binne Kill). Operations at the site have resulted in a number of areas of environmental concern, including spills, sewers and drains, the three landfills, waste storage facilities and other disposal areas.

The entire GE Main Plant facility is a class 2 site on the New York State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites.

## **REMEDIAL PROGRAM**

**Remedial Investigation (RI):** The NYSDEC and General Electric entered into an Order on Consent (Index # A4-0336-95-09) in August 1995. Pursuant to the Consent Order, GE is performing a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS). An RI determines the nature and extent of contamination at a hazardous waste site. An FS evaluates possible remedies for that contamination.

To facilitate investigation, the site was divided geographically into two zones (Zone 1 and Zone 2). The Zone 1 area corresponds to a hydrologic feature in the subsurface trending north-south through the site; it also represents an area of highly concentrated industrial activity. Zone 2 includes all other areas on the site. The zones are further divided into sectors, twenty in total, corresponding to various manufacturing areas and physical features on the site.

Field investigation work for the RI program began in 1999. The work includes: installation of new monitoring wells, piezometers, and soil borings; test trenching; surface water and sediment sampling; and groundwater sampling from new and existing groundwater wells. A draft Zone 1 RI report detailing the first phase of work is available. Additional work in Zone 1 and Zone 2 has been completed. A significant amount of data concerning environmental conditions at the site has been generated to date.

The current overall project schedule calls for the completion of the full RI for Zone 1 by February 2003. The Zone 2 RI is scheduled for completion in February 2004.



**Interim Remedial Measures (IRMs):** Interim Remedial Measures (IRMs) are conducted at sites when a source of contamination or exposure pathway can be effectively addressed before completion of the RI/FS.

A number of significant IRMs have been completed or are underway at the GE Main Plant site. Since the signing of the Consent Order in 1995, these have resulted in the removal of a significant quantity of contaminated material from the site.

Ongoing IRMs:

- The *Eastern Landfill Seeps IRM* includes the collection and in-situ treatment of a number of seeps along the western edge of the East Landfill. The system is now in operation.
- IRM for the *Site-Wide Investigation and Removal of Underground Storage Tanks (USTs)* is in progress. This effort includes the identification, evaluation, and removal of USTs on site.
- Collection of NAPL from the *Building 49/53* area, a former underground storage tank farm, continues on a routine basis (1986 to present).
- Remedial activities continue at *Stark Oil* subject to a separate Consent Order and IRM Record of Decision (1991 to present).
- An IRM for *Sector R Holding Pond* is underway. This involves the excavation of approximately 2,200 cubic yards of PCB contaminated sediment from a half-acre wetland area.
- An IRM for the *East Landfill* has been proposed and is under review. This effort proposes controls on contaminated groundwater migration and an innovative cover system to mitigate exposures to landfill wastes and reduce infiltration of precipitation into the waste materials.

Completed IRMs:

- The *Building 262 Soil Pile* was removed in April 2001. The 2,685 cubic yards of petroleum contaminated soil was used as subgrade cover in another area of the plant under a joint effort with the regional Spills program.
- *Hi Yard Sewer Cleaning IRM* was completed in 2000. Approximately 80 tons of PCB contaminated sediments and 430,000 gallons of contaminated water were removed from sewers running near the Hi Yard electrical station.
- *Building 265 Mercury Remediation* (sewer and building sub-basement cleaning) has been completed. In 1998, GE removed 14 cubic yards of friable asbestos, 146 drums of sediment, 12 tons of mercury-contaminated dirt and debris, 50 pounds of elemental mercury, and treated 30,000 gallons of water. Sewers adjacent to former *Building 269* were also cleaned in 1998.
- The *City Water Main LNAPL Collection IRM* is complete. This system recovers petroleum products from the subsurface and groundwater along the alignment of the City of Schenectady water main running through the GE Main Plant property. The product was discovered during water main replacement activities in 1998. Approximately 2,505 tons of contaminated soil was taken off-site. A treatment plant built at the site treats the groundwater prior to discharge to the facility wastewater treatment plant.
- A *storm and sanitary sewer cleaning* and abandonment project in portions of Zone 1 and 2 resulted in the off-site removal of 220 tons of PCB-contaminated sludge and sediment (1996).



## **YOUR OPPORTUNITIES TO BE INFORMED AND INVOLVED**

This public session represents an opportunity for the public to review the status of the remedial program at the GE Main Plant Facility. As the program progresses, additional opportunities for the public to become involved and comment on specific remedies developed for the site will become available. The 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. session will provide an informal opportunity to discuss the site with representatives from the NYSDEC, NYSDOH, and GE. The 7:00 P.M. session will feature a formal presentation of the site status by NYSDEC staff, followed by a question and answer session. Site specific information will be available for public review

Information to be presented will include:

- site physical setting and background (with maps and photographs)
- remedial program status (Consent Order, sectors, zones, RI process)
- remedial investigation efforts (maps, work plans, and preliminary findings)
- Interim Remedial Measures (maps, photos, descriptions, summaries, final reports)
- local water supply information (location of municipal well fields, hydrologic divide studies)

**Document Repositories:** Documents pertaining to the site are available for public review at the locations listed below.

NYSDEC Central Office  
Division of Environmental Remediation  
625 Broadway, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Albany, NY 12233-7016  
518-402-9774

Schenectady County Public Library  
99 Clinton Street  
Schenectady, NY  
518-388-4500

**For Further Information:** If you have any questions or comments concerning the site or information in the repositories, feel free to contact:

Martin Brand, Project Manager  
NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Environmental Remediation  
625 Broadway, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Albany, NY 12233-7016  
518-402-9774