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**WEBSITE LANGUAGE: GE Main Plant (447004)**

**DEC PROPOSES CLEANUP PLAN FOR GENERAL ELECTRIC MAIN PLANT SITE  
Public Comments Being Accepted through December 16, 2004**

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has released a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) for the General Electric Main Plant State Superfund site in the City of Schenectady/Town of Rotterdam, Schenectady County. Public comments on the PRAP, which addresses contamination at the active manufacturing plant, will be accepted until December 16, 2004.

The PRAP was developed after a Remedial Investigations and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) was conducted under the State Superfund program by the General Electric Company (GE).

GE's studies found soils containing high levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in various areas of the manufacturing plant and in the former on-site landfills. Additionally, GE found several areas of contaminated groundwater and landfill leachate seeps that will require remediation. The three on-site former landfills will be closed. Off-site contamination attributable to the site was not detected during the investigations and the RI indicates that the site is not impacting the City of Schenectady and Town of Rotterdam well fields to the west of the site.

The PRAP sets forth a comprehensive remedy for the entire site. The proposed on-site remedy includes specific source area remedies such as excavation and removal of contaminated soils and the treatment of groundwater source areas, as well as containment and control of the former landfills.

The major elements of the proposed on-site remedy include:

- Remedial design program to provide the details necessary for the construction, operation, maintenance, and monitoring of the proposed remedy at the site. This will include an evaluation of the potential for indoor air intrusion to site buildings from the migration of soil vapors.
- Completed or operating Interim Remedial Measures (IRMs) and systems would be incorporated into the proposed remedy.
- Excavation and off-site disposal of PCB-contaminated surface and subsurface soil at various locations in the manufacturing areas and former landfills.
- Soil or asphalt covers over surface soils in portions of the manufacturing area.
- Agronomic cover system (soil and vegetative covers) for closure of the former East and West Landfills.
- Seep collection and treatment systems for the seeps along the former East Landfill.

- Shallow groundwater treatment using air sparging technology for select areas between the former East Landfill and the Poentic Kill.
- Bioremediation of groundwater contamination source areas at several locations.
- Comprehensive *Site Management Plan* to guide future activities at the site.
- Institutional controls and environmental easements, including access controls and restrictions on the future use of the site property and groundwater.
- Comprehensive post-remedial monitoring program to evaluate the effectiveness of the remedy.
- Periodic review of the effectiveness of the completed remedial actions.

The estimated total present worth cost to implement the remedy is \$45,800,000. Capital costs for construction of the new proposed active remedial actions is \$13,300,000. The estimated average annual operation, maintenance, and monitoring costs for 30 years is \$2,513,000.

GE's history at the Main Plant site began in 1886 when Thomas Edison purchased two vacant factory buildings. GE has used Main Plant to manufacture a variety of products including electric motors and generators, gas turbines, wire and cable, insulating materials, and microwave tubes. GE's manufacturing operations at the Main Plant were generally within the central and eastern portions of the site. Over time, more than 240 structures were erected to meet GE's manufacturing needs. Currently, there are approximately 40 buildings at the 628-acre site and the Main Plant continues to produce large steam turbines and generators.

On Tuesday, November 30, 2004, DEC will hold a public meeting at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the PRAP for the site. The meeting will take place at the Schenectady County Community College, Stockade Hall, Room 101, at 78 Washington Avenue, Schenectady, NY.

Written comments on the proposed cleanup plan will be accepted through December 16, 2004. Comments should be sent to Martin Brand at 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-7013, or [mdbrand@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:mdbrand@gw.dec.state.ny.us). After considering both verbal and written comments, DEC will select the remedy for the site and issue the Record of Decision. Copies of project-related documents are available for public review on DEC's website at <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/der/projects/>, and at the following repositories:

Schenectady County Public Library  
99 Clinton Street (Main Branch)  
Schenectady, New York  
Contact: Reference Desk  
Phone: (518) 388-4500

NYSDEC Central Office  
Division of Environmental Remediation  
625 Broadway, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor

Albany, NY 12233-7013

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