

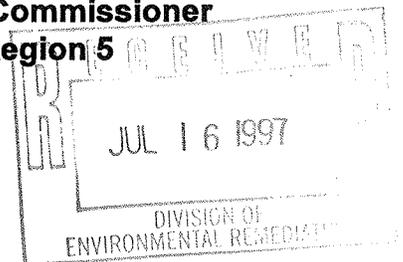
**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation,
Michael J. O'Toole, Jr., P.E., Director**

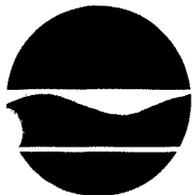
**NYSDEC
Fact Sheet**

**Cumberland Bay Sludge Bed -
Wilcox Dock Site**

July 15, 1997

**NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
GEORGE PATAKI, Governor; JOHN P. CAHILL, Commissioner
STUART BUCHANAN, Regional Director, Region 5**





PROPOSED REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN Fact Sheet

Site No.: 5-10-017
Name of Site: CUMBERLAND BAY SLUDGE BED - WILCOX DOCK SITE
City and County: Plattsburgh, Clinton County

FACT SHEET:

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide a brief overview of the Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) for the Cumberland Bay Sludge Bed - Wilcox Dock Site issued by the Department on July 15, 1997. The PRAP presents the decisions that led to the recommended remedial action alternative by discussing each alternative and the reason for choosing or rejecting it. The public is encouraged to review the PRAP and make comments at the public meetings or submit written comments during the comment period. The comments are reviewed and compiled in a Responsiveness Summary and revisions to the proposed remedial action may be made.

PREPARED BY:

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Environmental Remediation, under the State Superfund Program.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM:

The Cumberland Bay of Lake Champlain has received waste from various local industries for several decades. The result of some of these discharges over time has been the creation of a sludge bed in the northwest corner of Cumberland Bay. The sludge bed is adjacent to the Wilcox Dock and is contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). This sludge bed is approximately 34 acres in size with an estimated volume of 93,000 cubic yards. This site is listed in the NYS Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites as a Class 2 site. A Class 2 site poses a significant threat to the public health or environment. Contaminated debris from the sludge

bed is currently washing up on the beaches of Cumberland Bay. Several species of fish within Cumberland Bay have elevated levels of PCBs and there is a health advisory in effect concerning the consumption of fish in Cumberland Bay. There is also a commercial fishing ban on yellow perch in Cumberland Bay.

ACTIONS TO DATE:

The NYSDEC has taken several actions since the listing of the site in November 1994. The Department has been performing an Interim Remedial Measure to remove the PCB contaminated materials washing up on the beaches of Cumberland Bay. This has been ongoing since 1995. More than 300 tons of PCB-contaminated material have been removed to date. Additional fish sampling and analysis determined that the yellow perch in Cumberland Bay exceeded Food and Drug Administration limits for PCBs. Therefore, the fish consumption health advisory was expanded to include yellow perch and a ban on the sale of yellow perch from Cumberland Bay was ordered in 1995. Also during 1995, an investigation to determine the nature and extent of the contaminated sludge bed was initiated. A draft Feasibility Study evaluating the different remedial alternatives was released in 1996 for public review and a public meeting was held to present the results of the site characterization report and remedial alternatives under consideration. These alternatives included:

- ★★ sludge bed removal with the construction of an in-lake Confined Disposal Facility;
- ★★ sludge bed removal with the construction of a shoreline Confined Disposal Facility; and

★★ sludge bed removal with off-site disposal at an approved facility. A final Feasibility Study and Baseline Health and Environmental Risk Assessments are now available for public review.

ACTIVITIES OVER THE LAST EIGHT MONTHS:

In October 1996, a fact sheet and notice of a public meeting to present the Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) for the site was sent to the public. At that time the Georgia Pacific Corporation requested that the Department postpone the issuance of the PRAP to allow it to meet with the Department to discuss and evaluate other remedial options and concerns it had about the remediation of the Cumberland Bay Sludge Bed. The Department granted this request and entered into a series of discussions. These meetings and follow-up evaluations have led the Department to this point of being prepared to issue its final Feasibility Study and proposed plan.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED REMEDY:

The proposed remedy for the site includes isolating the sludge bed with temporary sheet piling and silt curtains, removing the sludge bed by a combination of hydraulic dredging and dry excavation, constructing and operating a temporary sludge dewatering facility and wastewater treatment facility, transporting and off-site disposal of the dewatered sludge, conducting confirmatory sampling and fish monitoring and continuing the beach cleaning IRM as needed.

COSTS:

There would be no long term operation and maintenance costs with this alternative as all waste materials would be removed from the site. The total cost for the Proposed Alternative is \$18,366,000. This does not include the cost of the beach cleaning IRM or post-remedial fish monitoring. That cost is estimated at \$150,000 per year for as long as needed. The volume of material washing ashore should diminish quickly after the sludge bed is removed.

ISSUES:

Although the proposed remedy appears more costly than other on-site alternatives, it is consistent with the Department's policies and NYS Regulations concerning wetland protection, shoreline and lake development. It eliminates the construction of an in-lake or shoreline hazardous waste disposal cell on site and eliminates the requirement of long-term operation & maintenance. It also is the most permanent and effective remedy for

environmentally restoring the site and the local fishery. This alternative will also allow for unrestricted future recreational or commercial use of the site that would not be provided by the other alternatives. Alternatives for Confined Disposal Facilities are believed to be inconsistent with NYS Regulations when other viable and practicable alternatives exist.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

The Proposed Remedial Action Plan and project reports may be reviewed at the following document repositories:

- ◆ Plattsburgh Public Library, Oak and Brinkerhoff Street, Plattsburgh, NY;
- ◆ NYSDEC Region 5 Headquarters, Route 86, Ray Brook NY: Daniel L. Steenberge, P.E. 518-897-1241
- ◆ NYSDEC Central Office, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, NY: Robert Edwards 518-457-5677

PRAP PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Two public information meetings to present the Proposed Remedial Action Plan will be held. The dates are July 30, 1997 and August 28, 1997 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 208 Yokum Hall, SUNY Plattsburgh, Rugar Street, Plattsburgh N.Y.

Public comments should be submitted to: Mr. Robert Edwards, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, New York, 12233-7010

Public comments on the proposed plan will be accepted through September 12, 1997.