



John P. Cahill
Commissioner

Public Availability Session¹

July 23, 1998 - 7:00 PM

Clinton County Government Center
First Floor Meeting Room

Name of Site:	CUMBERLAND BAY SLUDGE BED - WILCOX DOCK SITE
City and County:	Plattsburgh, Clinton County
NYSDEC Site No.:	5-10-017
Meeting Purpose:	To provide information on the status of the remedial design of the project.

SITE INFORMATION

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 130,000 cubic yards. This site is listed in the 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 400 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.

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and remedial alternatives under consideration. The final Feasibility Study and Baseline Health and Environmental Risk Assessments were issued in May 1997. The Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) was issued in July 1997. Two public meetings were held, the comment period was extended and additional meetings were held to inform various groups on the PRAP. A Responsiveness Summary was prepared to address public comment and the Record of Decision was finalized December 1997. Additional data collection has been ongoing during 1998 and the Department is currently preparing the design documents for the site.

ACTIVITIES OVER THE LAST EIGHT MONTHS:

The Record of Decision was signed on December 30, 1997 and design commenced in January 1998. The Department is currently finalizing the work on the design documents and has been gathering additional site data to facilitate this. The design of the remedy is expected to be completed by late summer 1998. The fourth season of the beach cleaning IRM is underway.

DESCRIPTION OF THE REMEDY:

The 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. Provisions will be made in the design to identify methods to shorten the time required for the removal of the sludge bed along with minimizing the impacts of the remedial action on the community.

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 Selected Alternative is estimated at \$18,400,000. 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.

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PROJECT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

The Record of Decision 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.

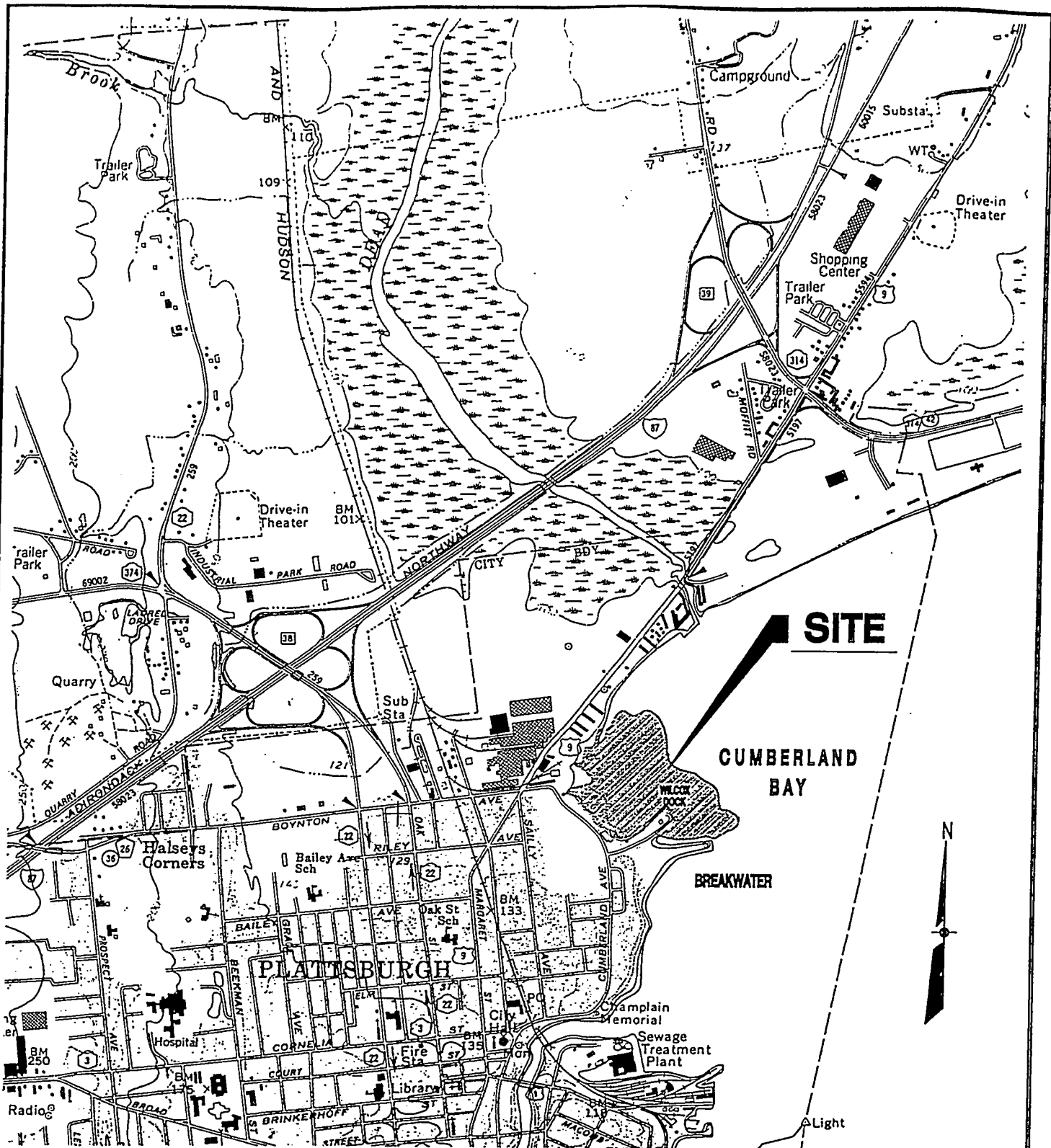
A public availability session will be held July 23, 1998 at the Clinton County Government Center at 7:00PM. The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public information on the status of the remedial design for the project.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

Technical and Project Related: Mr. Robert Edwards
518 457-5677.

Health Issues: Mr. Richard Fedigan 518-458-6306

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Rust Environment & Infrastructure Inc.

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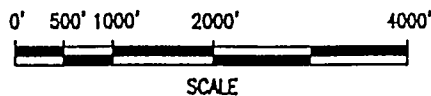


FIGURE 1-1

SITE LOCATION MAP

DESIGN ANALYSIS REPORT
CUMBERLAND BAY SLUDGE BED SITE
PLATTSBURGH - CLINTON COUNTY, N.Y.
NYSDEC SITE No. 510017

05/07/98

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