NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF

ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION

Public Meeting:
Weds. April 17, 1996
7 - 9 P.M.
Washington Co. Offices
Bldg. B, Large Conf. Room
383 Upper Broadway
Fort Edward, NY 12828

Fact Sheet

General Electric - Fort Edward
Washington County
April, 1996

Remedial Investigation nears completion at General Electric Fort Edward Plant

The General Electric Company, under the terms of an Order on Consent with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, has completed the first phase of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study to address the GE-Fort Edward plant site. The Remedial Investigation, which began in July 1995, provided for an expansion of remedial activities first initiated in 1989. The investigation consisted of soil gas studies, installation of soil borings and monitor wells, and samples of nearly all environmental media. Upon completion of this phase of remedial investigation, a Feasibility Study was begun to evaluate remedial alternatives, and a supplemental investigation plan was developed to fill any remaining data gaps.

While the Remedial Investigation was going on, GE also began a program to remove the former pipeline that was used in the past to convey wastewater to the Hudson River from the plant. This pipeline, and the soils adjacent to the pipe, were found to contain PCB, and could be a preferred pathway for contaminant migration to the river. The pipeline and soil removal project began in December 1995, and is expected to be completed this spring.

Citizen Participation

The public meeting scheduled will include structured presentations about the investigations to be performed, the schedule for the conduct of the various tasks, and the progress of the Interim Remedial Measures, (IRMs). The meeting is designed to encourage public questions and discussion.

Document Repositories. These locations provide you access to more detailed project information. The public is encouraged to review the documents at the repositories to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the site and of the investigations conducted there. The project documents can be reviewed at the following repositories:

Wash. County Off. Bldg.
383 Upper Broadway
Fort Edward NY 12828

Adriance Public Library
93 Market Street
Poughkeepsie NY 12601

Kevin Farrar
NYSDEC - DHWR
50 Wolf Rd
Albany NY 12233-7010
(518) 457-5637

For more information or to comment call or write to Kevin Farrar at the above address or call NYSDEC's Hazardous Waste site toll-free information number: 1-800-342-9296.

GE Fort Edward
Plant Site

GE's Fort Edward plant is located on a 32-acre tract along Route 4 in the Town of Fort Edward parallel to and between the Hudson River and Broadway, just south of the Washington County Office building complex. General Electric has manufactured capacitors at this location since the late 1940s. PCBs were used in capacitor manufacture until 1976. Other products used on the site include solvents such as trichloroethene.

GE has been conducting extensive on-site and off-site remedial and monitoring activities for more than 10 years. PCBs and volatile organic compounds were identified in groundwater on the site during the 1970s and 1980s. In accordance with the 1984 Order on Consent and the 1989 Remedial Plan, GE established an off-site groundwater recovery system and conducted off-site groundwater monitoring. Under the 1990 on-site remedial plan, GE removed contaminated soils and began pumping and treating contaminated groundwater on and in the vicinity of the site. A DNAPL recovery system removes PCB from underneath the east parking lot. This work continues.

The first phase of the remedial investigation encompassed the remainder of the plant site with particular emphasis on the tank farm, foil mill and northern soil storage area. Soil gas studies were used to pinpoint locations for monitor wells. Both overburden and shallow/deep bedrock wells were installed to determine the extent of groundwater contamination beneath the plant and off site as deemed necessary as the investigation progresses.

004 Outfall Area

The IRM to complete the removal of the former outfall pipeline and associated soils began in December of 1995, and is ongoing. To date, approximately 4000 tons of soil and pipeline debris have been removed. The extent of soil removal has been based upon the results of soil sampling done along the sides of the pipeline, to confirm that the significant PCB contamination will be removed.
After removal of the soils and pipeline debris, the trench is backfilled with low permeability material up to the water table, to ensure that the trench does not represent a continued preferential pathway for groundwater movement from the plant site to the river. Continuous monitoring will be done to evaluate the effectiveness of this IRM, and to ensure that this area is no longer a source of PCB to the Hudson River.

The soils/sediments at the shoreline of the Hudson River near the former outfall are contaminated with PCBs up to 44,800 ppm (mg/kg). The extent of the contamination in this area has been defined, except for the potential of the contamination extending into the underlying bedrock. GE, EPA, and DEC are discussing potential remedial alternatives and a focused feasibility study will be completed prior to selecting remedy. At such time, another public meeting will be held with a comment period to solicit input prior to selecting an alternative.

FINDINGS OF THE RI

Building 40 Area
Several soil borings were done to evaluate soil contamination in the vicinity of Bldg. 40, based upon the results of a soil gas survey. The extent of contamination in this area is limited to immediately adjacent to the building. PCB, solvents, and kerosene were identified in the soils and groundwater.

Soil Piles in North End of Plant
Soil samples were taken in the north end of the plant site to determine if the soil piled there over the past several years contained any contamination. The results of these samples indicated that the soils were uncontaminated.

Tank Farm Area
Numerous soil borings were done inside the manufacturing areas inside the plant to investigate the tank farm, treat areas, and other parts of the plant to determine if there were continuing sources of contamination beneath the plant buildings. The results of this work indicated that soil contamination does exist beneath part of the plant buildings, and a thin layer of PCB oil exists on the top of the clay layer beneath the site, but large amounts of PCB oil were not found. It may be that the large accumulation of PCB oil currently found beneath the parking lot originated in this area, but there is not a large residual of PCB oil remaining beneath the plant buildings.

Overburden Groundwater
In general, the findings of the previous investigations were confirmed, but one additional area of concern was identified. In the southeast corner of the site, a transitional zone of interbedded sand and clay was identified by GE's consultant, investigated, and found to contain PCB and solvents in the groundwater. The extent of this part of the groundwater problem at the site is not yet determined, but this will be further investigated this spring.

Bedrock Groundwater
Again, the findings of the previous investigations were confirmed, but additional work was done to expand the understanding of the effect of the ongoing groundwater recovery program in the bedrock beneath the site.

Monitoring of the water levels in the vicinity of the pumping wells was done over a period of time, and additional monitoring wells will be installed this spring to complete this portion of the evaluation.

Phase 2 RI Plan Approved

The scope of work for second phase of the RI has been approved, which consists of several elements:

1) Packer testing of recovery well GM-11D to determine new well locations.
2) Installation of up to ten additional bedrock monitoring wells to confirm the understanding of the bedrock groundwater recovery system operation.
3) Residential well monitoring.
4) Additional DNAPL monitoring in the south parking lot.
5) Bldg. 40 soils investigations to more clearly define the area impacted by the kerosene.
6) Installation of additional monitoring wells in the transition zone southeast of the site to define the extent of groundwater contamination in this area.
7) Gathering of additional water level measurements.
8) In-situ permeability testing.
9) Groundwater sampling.
10) Sewer integrity testing to complete a closer inspection of active and abandoned manholes and sewers to evaluate infiltration and inflow.