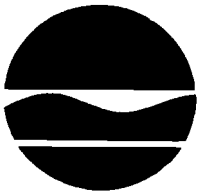
NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF



ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION

Public Meeting:

7 - 9 P.M.
Washington Co. Offices
Bldg. B, Large Conf. Room
383 Upper Broadway
Fort Edward, NY 12828

General Electric - Fort Edward,
Washington County
May, 1996

Fact Sheet

Proposed Remedial Action Plan Announced for General Electric Fort Edward Plant

Remedial investigations have been completed to deal with sources of PCB contamination for Operable Units 3 and 4 (OU3 and OU4) and a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) has been prepared for your review and comment. This fact sheet and the scheduled public meeting (**see sidebar at left**) are intended to keep you informed and knowledgeable about the PCB problem and the efforts to address it.

Citizen Participation

The *public meeting* scheduled will include presentations about the progress of investigating and remediating PCB contamination at the GE Fort Edward plant. The meeting is also structured to encourage public questions and discussion.

Document Repositories. Two locations provide you access to project information:

Washington County Clerk's Office
383 Upper Broadway
Fort Edward, NY 12828

Adriance Public Library
93 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

For More Information. Call or write the following staff for more information:

About Remedial Programs at
the Hudson Falls GE Plant
Kevin Farrar, Project Manager
Div. of Hazardous Waste Remediation
NYSDEC
50 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12233-7010
(518)457-5637

Or call NYSDEC's Hazardous Waste Site Toll-Free Information Number:
1-800-342-9296

PCB REMEDIATION PROJECTS: UPDATE

GE Fort Edward Plant Site

Site Background

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 trichloroethane.

GE has been conducting extensive on-site and off-site remedial and monitoring activities. For management purposes the site has been divided into four parts called **operable units** as follows:

- Operable Unit 1 **(OU1)** consists of off site overburden contaminated groundwater. In accordance with the 1984 Order on Consent, GE established an off-site groundwater recovery system and conducts monitoring. This effort is successful and complete and will continue to be operated and maintained by GE.

- Operable Unit 2 **(OU2)** consists of on-site contaminated soil and groundwater. The Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) conducted from 1984 to 1990 concluded that an expansion of the overburden groundwater recovery system was needed on-site; PCB oil recovery from the bedrock beneath the site was also needed. PCB-contaminated soils from the railroad off-loading area was removed.

OU 1 and OU2 have been addressed by previous studies and subsequently remediated. GE has recently completed a RI/FS. This latest RI/FS is a continuing investigation of the plant site, and supplements the RI/FS done in 1984-90. The need for supplemental investigation arose from a 1994 review of the selected remedies. A separate remedial investigation and focused feasibility study was concluded in 1994-97 for the area along the Hudson River shoreline.

- Operable Unit 3 **(OU3)** consists of the main portion of the site, including the contaminated groundwater and soil beneath the facility.

- Operable Unite 4 **(OU4)** consists of contaminated soil and sediment adjacent to the former 004 outfall on the east shore of the Hudson River.

The focus of this fact sheet is to describe the most recent findings and the proposed remedial plan to address OU3 and OU4.

Interim Remedial Measures

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. The following IRMs have been completed at the site.

1985 - Two production wells were temporarily sealed to prevent migration of contaminants into the deep bedrock aquifer. These wells were permanently sealed in 1996. (OU3)

1994 - A temporary diversion for the plant outfall was installed. The outfall originally flowed through contaminated sediments on the shore of the Hudson River. The permanent diversion was completed in 1996. (OU4)

1994 - Shoreline protection measures were installed to reduce high flow water velocity over PCB contaminated material in the vicinity of the outfall area. (OU4)

1996 - Former outfall pipeline and pipe bedding was removed. This pipeline was contaminated with PCBs. (OU4)

OU3 - Site Groundwater and Soil

Findings of the RI (OU 3)

The Ri was conducted in two phases. The first phase was conducted between July 1995 and March 1996 and the second phase between April 1996 and January 1997. A report entitled Fort Edward Remedial Investigation Report - January 20, 1997 has been prepared describing the field activities and findings of the RI in detail.

The site is contaminated with several types of compounds, including PCBs and volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

As described in the RI report, numerous soil gas, soil, and groundwater samples were collected at the site to characterize the nature and extent of contamination.

Soil gas samples were collected and analyzed for VOCs. Elevated levels of VOCs were found in the soil gas at portions of the site.

Soil samples were collected from borings and soil piles and were found to contain VOCs, kerosene, and PCBs.

Groundwater samples were collected from 108 on-site monitoring wells, 22 off-site wells, and 4 off-site springs. Samples from shallow groundwater were found to contain VOCs and PCBs. Generally, the groundwater in the bedrock beneath the site had few contravention of groundwater standards.

While low levels of PCBs, solvents, and kerosene-related VOCs were detected in many of the soil samples, the analytical results revealed concentrations below concentrations which pose a significant risk to humans as a result of exposure consistent with industrial settings.

Below some portion of the site shallow groundwater is contaminated above Class GA groundwater standards or guidance values for numerous chemicals, including VOCs and PCB. As with the on-site areas, off-site wells and springs were contaminated with chlorinated VOCs and PCB. Shallow and intermediate bedrock groundwater had several low detections of VOCs. The deep bedrock wells were not contaminated above groundwater standards for VOCs or PCBs.

The Proposed Remedial Action Plan (OU3)

Based on the results of the RI/FS for the plant portion of the site, the NYSDEC in consultation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) is proposing for Operable Unit 03 of the GE Capacitor Products Division (GE Fort Edward) that contaminated groundwater be collected through a series of extraction wells and treated at the facility's treatment plant to remove the contaminants, and that an aggressive PCB oil recovery system be installed and operated. Treated groundwater would be discharged to the Hudson River through a permitted outfall. This remedy is proposed to address the threat to human health and the environment created by the presence of VOCs and PCBs in groundwater above groundwater standards.

OU4 - Former 004 Outfall Area

Findings of the RI (OU4)

As described in the RI reports, soil and surface water samples were collected at the site to characterize the nature and extent of contamination.

Soil samples ware collected from borings at selected locations and found to predominantly contain PCBs with some additional volatile and semivolatile organic compounds. The PCB contaminated soils were found in areas that were previously at or below the high water level of the Hudson River when the former Fort Edward Dam was still in place. The Fort Edward Dam was removed in 1973.

Almost two hundred soil samples were collected from locations along the shoreline of the Hudson River above and below the former 004 discharge pipe. Soils immediately downstream from the former outfall contain very high concentrations of PCB; concentrations deminish with distance from the outfall.

The Proposed Remedial Action Plan (004)

The NYSDEC in consultation with NYSDOH is proposing removal and disposal of PCB contaminated material (containing 50 parts per million and above) from along the Hudson River shoreline near the former 004 outfall. PCB contaminated material containing less than 50 ppm would be consolidated and incorporated into the existing Remnant Deposit Area 3.

Invitation

This fact sheet is intended to keep you informed and knowledgeable about the PCB problem at GE Fort Edward and the efforts to address them. You are encouraged to attend the meetings or contact us to learn more about this site and voice your concern, if any. All comments will be considered prior to finalizing the remedial plan.