NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF

ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY SESSION
Wednesday, March 10, 1999
3 - 5 P.M.

Washington Co. Offices
Bldg. B, Large Conf. Room
383 Upper Broadway
Fort Edward, NY 12828

Public Meeting:

Wednesday, March 10, 1999
7 - 9 P.M.
Washington Co. Offices
Bldg. B, Large Conf. Room
383 Upper Broadway
Fort Edward, NY 12828

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED

February 23 thru
April 26, 1999

Fact Sheet

General Electric - Fort Edward,
Washington County
January, 2000

Record of Decision issued for GE Fort Edward Plant Site

Remedial investigations and feasibility studies have been completed for Operable Units 3 and 4 for the General Electric Fort Edward Plant (see page 2 for description of Operable Units). A Record of Decision has been issued by the Department which describes the selected remedial alternative.. This Fact sheet provides site background information, a summary of the site conditions, and a summary of the selected remedy in the ROD.

Citizen Participation

A Public Availability Session and Public Meeting have been held (as detailed in the sidebar at left) as part of the citizen participation program for this site. The Public Availability Session provided an opportunity for you to learn more about the site and the PRAP directly from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) staff who will answer your questions. During the public meeting, the NYSDEC presented the proposed site remedies as contained in the PRAP, answered questions, and accepted public comments.

NYSDEC accepted written public comments during the period commencing on February 22, 1999 and ending on April 26, 1999. A "Responsiveness Summary" has been prepared that describes public comments received and how the NYSDEC has addressed the concerns raised.

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 Fort Edward 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 extending from the Hudson River to Upper 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 chemicals used on the site include solvents such as trichloroethane and kerosene.

GE has been conducting extensive on-site and off-site remedial investigation 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 a 1984 Order on Consent, GE established an off-site groundwater recovery system and conducts monitoring. This effort is complete and successful. GE will continue to provide operation and maintenance.

- 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 recovery from the bedrock beneath the site was also needed and provided for thru the use of two recovery wells with off-site disposal of recovered product. PCB-contaminated soils from the railroad off-loading area were also removed and properly disposed off-site.

OU 1 and OU2 have been addressed by previous studies and have been the subject of remedial programs since 1989-90. GE has recently completed a RI/FS for Operable Unit 3 (0U3) and a focused feasibility study for Operable Unit 4 (OU4). These latest studies supplement the RI/FS done in 1984-90. The need for supplemental investigation arose from a 1994 five-year review of the OU1 and OU2 selected remedies, which identified data that suggested additional remedial work may be necessary.

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

- Operable Unit 4 (**OU4**) consists of contaminated soil along the riverbank adjacent to the former 004 outfall on the east shore of the Hudson River.

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 OU3 and OU4 IRMs have been completed at the site.

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

1994 - A temporary diversion for the plant outfall was installed. The outfall originally flowed through contaminated soils of OU4. The permanent diversion was completed in 1996.

1994 - Shoreline protection measures were installed to reduce the potential for scouring of the riverbank during high flow events in the Hudson River.

1996 - The PCB contaminated former outfall pipeline and pipe bedding were removed from the OU4 area.

OU3 - Site Groundwater and Soil

Findings of the OU3 RI

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.

Below some portions of the site, shallow groundwater is contaminated above Class GA groundwater standards or guidance values for numerous chemicals, including VOCs and PCBs. As with the on-site areas, off-site wells and springs were contaminated with chlorinated VOCs and PCBs. 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) has selected for Operable Unit 03 of the GE Fort Edward site that contaminated groundwater be collected through a series of extraction wells and treated at the facility's existing treatment plant to remove the contaminants. An expanded PCB oil recovery system will be installed to address dense phase non-aqueous liquid under the employee parking lot. Treated groundwater would be discharged to the Hudson River through the existing permitted outfall. Separate phase oils will be collected and properly disposed in accordance with RCRA/TSCA regulations. 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 OU4 RI

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

Soil samples were 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 on and along the banks of the River.

Almost two hundred soil and sediment samples were collected from locations along and below the shoreline and below the surface of the Hudson River North and South of the former 004 discharge pipe. Soils immediately downstream from the former outfall contain very high concentrations of PCB; concentrations diminish with distance from the outfall. A considerable volume of contaminated soil exists in the river along the eastern shoreline.

Surface water sampling results from upstream and downstream of the 004 outfall area indicate that the site is an ongoing source of PCB to the Hudson River.

The Proposed Remedial Action Plan (OU4)

The NYSDEC in consultation with NYSDOH has selected removal and offsite disposal of all PCB contaminated material from along the shoreline of the Hudson River in the vicinity of the former 004 outfall area.