NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF

ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION

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# Fact Sheet

**General Electric - Fort Edward,**
Washington County
September, 2002

# Remedial Action for General Electric Fort Edward Plant Site

General Electric is continuing remediation at their Fort Edward Plant site in Washington County. The latest work will begin in September and includes a groundwater recovery trench near the Foil Mill, groundwater recovery from the abandoned sewer, and pretreatment system to clean the water before final treatment and discharge.

## GE Fort Edward Plant Site Remedial Activity (OU3)

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

The latest work will begin in September and includes:

- Perform site preparation activities to establish work zones and stockpile areas, setup temporary facilities, locate utilities, and install dewatering facilities.
- Install the pretreatment equipment inside the GE facility (Bldg. 40) and make necessary tie-ins to the collection trench and the discharge manhole.
- Excavate soils from the collection trench and either stockpile the trench spoils adjacent to the trench for on-site reuse or place them in the designated soils staging area.
- Load soils which are not suitable for on-site reuse on to trucks for disposition of the materials at a designated disposal facility.
- Install groundwater collection piping and cleanouts, and the collection manhole in accordance with the contract documents. Two submersible pumps and one oil separator/recovery system will be installed in the collection trench manhole.
- Install pipe modifications inside manholes MH-5 and MH-27. A submersible pump will be installed in MH-27 to convey collected water to MH-5.
- Collect and pretreat construction waters resulting from the remediation activities.
- Backfill excavated areas with suitable backfill.

During construction activities, monitoring of dust, noise and odors will be conducted. All of the work will be performed with DEC's approval and oversight on GE's property. The schedule is for the work to be completed in approximately two (2) months.

## 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 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 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 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 oil recovery from the bedrock beneath the site was also needed and provided for through the use of two recovery wells with off-site disposal of recovered product. PCB-contaminated soils from the railroad off-loading area was 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 completed a RI/FS for Operable Unit 3 **(OU3)** and a focused feasability 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. A remedy was selected by the NYSDEC in January 2000. The design was approved by NYSDEC in June 2002. Construction is to begin in September.

- 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. The NYSDEC is negotiating a Consent Order with GE for the design and construction work.

- 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.