

NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF



ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION
Erin M. Crotty, Commissioner

General Electric
Fort Edward Outfall 004
Operable Unit 4
Inactive Hazardous Waste
Disposal Site

Main Document Repository
Washington County Office
Building
Upper Broadway
Fort Edward, NY

For More Information:

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625 Broadway, 11th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7015
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(518) 402-9622*

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Site No. 5-58-004

August, 2003

Public Availability Meetings

August 13&27

September 10&24

8:00 p.m.

at the

Washington County Office Building -Rm B036
Upper Broadway, NYS Route 4
Village of Fort Edward

Remedial Construction

General Electric - Fort Edward
Site No. 5-58-004 - Operable Unit 4
Outfall 004

River Bank Excavation and Removal

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is holding a series of biweekly **Public Availability Sessions at 8:00 p.m. on August 13 & 27 and September 10 & 24, 2003 in Room B036 at the Washington County Office Building** to provide information on the progress of Remedial Construction activities for the General Electric Fort Edward Outfall 004 Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site (Site Number 5-58-004). The site is located along the banks of the Hudson River below Hudson Street, Fort Edward, Washington County, New York

Site History And Description

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 was successful. GE continues 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 were also removed and properly disposed off-site.

- Operable Unit 3 (OU3) consists of the main portion of the site, including the contaminated groundwater and soil beneath the facility. The Record of Decision (ROD) for OU-3 stated that contaminated groundwater and product will be collected through a collection trench system, pretreated via separation and then treated at the facility's existing treatment plant to remove the VOCs and PCBs in groundwater above groundwater standards. This treatment includes an expanded PCB oil recovery system to address dense phase non-aqueous liquid under the employee parking lot. Treated groundwater is discharged to the Hudson River through the existing permitted outfall.

- 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 ROD calls for the removal and off-site disposal of all PCB contaminated material from along the shoreline of the Hudson River in the vicinity of the former 004 outfall area.

OU-4 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.

Remedial Construction Activity Summary

The Remedial Action at this site is consistent with what was outlined in the ROD. The DEC through its Contractor will excavate and dispose of an estimated 15,500 tons of contaminated soils from the river bank starting near the outfall and proceeding south approximately 1,200 feet. The Contractor will install a temporary coffer dam in the river to divert flow away from the river bank. The Contractor will install an access road down to the river beginning at the end of Hudson Street. The Contractor will also install a water treatment system to handle construction related water. The Contractor will conduct air monitoring for the protection of the downwind community from potential airborne contaminant releases associated with the remedial work activities. The Construction activities will occur from May 2003 through October 2003.

To date, the Contractor has removed 1,100 tons of soils greater than 50 parts per million (ppm). The Contractor has also removed over 1,300 tons of soils with PCB contamination less than fifty (50) ppm and greater than one ppm.

Citizen Participation Summary

As part of its responsibility to inform and involve the public, the DEC has, and continues to carry out, citizen participation measures at this site. These activities include: public meetings to describe work performed to date for the construction. These availability meetings are the latest step for keeping the public informed.

Repositories: Below are listed the places where the public can review relevant public documents regarding information about this site:

Washington Co. Office Bldg
Upper Broadway Avenue
Fort Edward, NY 12828

NYSDEC Central Office
625 Broadway, 12th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7015
Attn: Gerard Burke, P.E.

For More Information: Please contact the individuals identified on the cover sheet of this Notice.