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Fact Sheet

General Electric - Fort Edward,
Site # 558004
Washington County
July, 2006

Additional testing to be done at General Electric Fort Edward Plant Site

General Electric is continuing environmental testing at its Fort Edward Plant site in Washington County. The latest work will begin in July and includes installation and sampling of additional monitoring wells in the shallow bedrock in the vicinity of the former 004 outfall, on the eastern bank of the Hudson River. Sampling of surface water and seepage will also be done. The purpose of the work is to gather the information necessary to determine if PCBs in the shallow bedrock in the vicinity of the former outfall will require further investigation or remediation. GE is required to conduct this work under the terms of a Consent Order issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) in August 2005.

Work to be done in 2006:

GE has tentatively scheduled the 004 outfall monitoring well drilling to begin during the week of July 10, depending on river stage. River flows will need to be within typical summer conditions to allow for safe access to the work area.

Deeper (approximately 20 feet deep) monitoring wells will be paired with three of the existing shallow wells to evaluate the vertical extent of non-aqueous phase liquid (NAPL), if any, in the bedrock. Two two-well monitoring well clusters will be installed at new locations. The monitoring wells will be checked for the presence of NAPL prior to sampling. Groundwater samples will be collected and analyzed to determine the concentrations of contaminants, if present. Water level measurements will also be collected to evaluate vertical hydraulic gradients. This information tells us the direction that the groundwater is moving within the bedrock. GE will also collect samples of seepage from the riverbank, and collect surface water samples upstream and downstream of the former 004 outfall location. This work will help in evaluating the potential for the site to impact the Hudson River.

The investigation work will be done by GE, with oversight by NYSDEC and NYSDOH.

GE may need to bring in a small amount of crushed stone (1-2 truckloads) to allow for site access by the drill rig. Project traffic will be limited, and will proceed at slow speeds (15 mph) in the nearby residential areas. Project work will be limited to the hours between [*fill in times*](#).

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 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 trichloroethene, and kerosene.

GE has been conducting extensive on-site and off-site cleanup and monitoring activities. For management purposes the site has been divided into four parts called **operable units**. An Operable Unit represents a portion of the site remedy which for technical or administrative reasons can be addressed separately to eliminate or mitigate a release, threat of release, or exposure pathway resulting from the site contamination.

Operable Unit 1 (OU1) and Operable Unit 2 (OU2) have been addressed by previous studies and have been the subject of remedial programs since 1989-90. GE completed a RI/FS for Operable Unit 3 (**OU3**) 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.

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. 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.

GE Fort Edward Plant Site Recent Remedial Activity - Summary

Operable Unit 3: Under the terms of a Consent Order issued by NYSDEC in October 2001, GE has substantially completed the Operable Unit 3 remedy, intended to enhance the site groundwater and oil collection systems. This remedy included the conversion of a former sewer into a groundwater collection system, and construction of a groundwater and kerosene collection trench system near Building 40 along the western portion of the site. GE also installed four new vertical recovery wells in the southeastern portion of the plant site, and installed two horizontal recovery wells in the southern portion of the site.

Operable Unit 4: NYSDEC performed the remedial design, and implemented, the Operable Unit 4 remedy. The remedial work was done in 2003 and 2004, and included the removal of contaminated soil and sediment from the eastern bank of the Hudson River in the vicinity and downstream of the former 004 outfall from the GE Fort Edward plant to the Hudson River. During NYSDEC's implementation of the Operable Unit 4 remedy, oil seeps were discovered in a portion of the riverbed and in the historic bedrock excavation in which the former 004 outfall structure was located; subsequent sampling in the vicinity of the seeps and in shallow bedrock wells indicated the presence of PCBs.

Soil Vapor Intrusion Investigation and Abatement Program: In 2005, GE implemented a program to investigate areas south and west of the Fort Edward plant site to determine if site related volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were present in soil gas in the vicinity of the site. As a result of this work, GE offered abatement systems to property owners where VOCs were detected in nearby soil gas. The abatement systems were installed by the end of 2005 upon the property owner's request. The offer for abatement systems where VOCs were detected in nearby soil gas remains open.