

## Public Meeting Invitation

Wednesday, February 24,  
2010 at 7:00 PM  
Utica State Office Building,  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 207 Genesee St,  
Utica, New York 13501

The New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation and Health (NYSDEC and NYSDOH) will discuss the proposed cleanup for the Erie Canal: Town of Frankfort Section Site. At the meeting, representatives from the NYSDEC and NYSDOH will:

- ✓ Describe results of the site investigations and evaluation;
- ✓ Explain the proposed cleanup;
- ✓ Answer your questions about the cleanup;
- ✓ Receive your verbal or written comments about the proposal.

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

**From:** February 16, 2010  
**To:** March 19, 2010

# FACT SHEET

February 12, 2010

13501

Erie Canal

Town of Frankfort Section  
Site No. 6-22-006

Route 5S, Town of Frankfort,  
Herkimer County, New York

## Remedy Proposed for the Erie Canal: Town of Frankfort Section

\*\*\*

## Public Meeting, Comment Period Announced

\*\*\*

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), working cooperatively with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), has proposed that remedial action is required for the Erie Canal: Town of Frankfort Section located along N.Y.S. Route 5S, in the Town of Frankfort, Herkimer County, New York (Figure 1).

**The Proposed Remedial Action Plan:** Based on the results of the Remedial Investigation (RI) and completion of the Feasibility Study (FS), the NYSDEC and the NYSDOH proposes that remedial action is required for the Erie Canal: Town of Frankfort Section. Remedial action would include excavation and off-site treatment/disposal of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and metal contaminated sediments to meet sediment screening criteria, which would allow for unrestricted use of the site. This proposal is described in the site's Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP). The PRAP was developed following a comprehensive evaluation of the site. The PRAP evaluates different options to clean up the site and presents the alternative preferred by the NYSDEC and NYSDOH.

*See page 2 of this fact sheet for a summary of the PRAP, site background, and summary of the site investigation. The full PRAP is available for your review at the document repositories listed on page 3.*

**Your Opportunities to Comment on the Proposed Remedy:** Release of the PRAP begins a process to finalize selection of the cleanup for the site. Your comment and input about the proposed cleanup are important and encouraged.

Your oral and written comments about the PRAP are welcome at the **public meeting** (see sidebar) and during a **public comment period** which runs until March 8, 2010. Written comments also may be mailed until the end of the comment period to:

Mr. Salvatore F. Priore, P.E.

Project Manager

NYSDEC, Division of Environmental Remediation

625 Broadway, 11th Floor

Albany, New York 12233-7014

[sfpriore@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:sfpriore@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

**What Happens Next:** All comments received during the public comment period will be considered as the remedy for the Erie Canal: Town of Frankfort Section Site is finalized. Public input will be factored into the record of decision (ROD), which will describe the remedy selected and why it was chosen. NYSDEC will respond to comments in a responsiveness summary included in the ROD.

### **Site History**

The Erie Canal: Town of Frankfort Section Site is an abandoned section of the Old Erie Canal, reportedly built between 1817 and 1825 and abandoned in the early 1900s, which begins just east of Turner Street in the City of Utica, Oneida County, and extends approximately 4,200 feet in an easterly direction into the Town of Frankfort. The Site was subsequently used as a drainage area for storm water flow, as well as wastewater disposal between 1950 and 1981 by up-gradient manufacturing facilities. These facilities included electroplating facilities, arms/munitions factories and an electric substation. Reportedly disposal activities included discharge of plating wastes, industrial solvents, and PCB-contaminated tars, which resulted in deposits of oily sludge/sediment currently present at the Site. Today, the Erie Canal: Town of Frankfort Section Site is used as a discharge point for stormwater, but is no longer used for wastewater disposal.

The primary environmental concerns associated with the Site are contaminated sediments. Contaminants of concern are PCBs and heavy metals.

### **Remedial Investigation(RI)**

The Remedial Investigation (RI) was conducted by the NYSDEC from May 2005 through September of 2005, and included soil, sediment, surface water and groundwater sampling. A supplemental investigation was conducted in November 2008, and included additional sediment and surface water sampling at up-gradient and down-gradient locations to complete data gaps. A summary of the findings of the RI and supplemental investigation are listed below:

- PCBs (primarily Aroclor-1254) were confirmed during the RI as the principle environmental contaminant at the site and are present throughout sediment at the Old Erie Canal Site. Additionally, heavy metals and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were detected in sediments above sediment screening criteria. Figure 2 presents the distribution of PCB contamination within the canal.
- Groundwater samples collected from on-site wells during the RI indicate that contamination from the Old Erie Canal Site is not impacting groundwater at the Site.
- The RI concluded that surface water at the Site is not a concern for human health, and a low risk to potential fish and wildlife resources.
- The RI concluded that soil in the vicinity does not pose a human health risk nor to fish and wildlife resources.
- RI and Supplemental Investigation results indicate low levels of PCBs are present in off-site surface water and sediment, including within a drainage way that discharges to the Site and within portions of Tributary 204 located up-gradient of the discharge from the Site.

### **Feasibility Study (FS)**

Based on the final results of the RI, the NYSDEC conducted a Feasibility Study (FS) to evaluate Remedial Alternatives for the Site. The FS:

- established Remedial Action Objectives (RAOs);
- identified and screened general response actions and remedial technologies that will satisfy the RAOs;
- developed Remedial Alternatives; and
- evaluated Remedial Alternatives.

### **Summary of Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP)**

Based on the results of the investigations at the site and the FS, the Department is proposing Alternative 4: Excavation and Off-site Treatment/Disposal of Contaminated Sediment from 0-3 feet; deeper excavation for PCBs greater than 0.35parts per million. (See Figures 2&4)

This alternative would include:

- pre-design investigations and Remedial Design
- mobilization and setup of temporary de-watering facilities and controls

- excavation and off-site treatment/disposal of all contaminated sediments (an approximate volume of 23,791 cubic yards)
- restoration and grading the canal to allow for pooling and meandering of stormwater flow in order to promote the re-establishment of the ecological environment.
- Alternative #4, estimated cost \$12,500,000.
- allow for unrestricted use of the Site.

The Department believes that this alternative would be protective of human health and the environment and would satisfy all Standards, Criteria & Guidance (SCGs) as described above. Overall protectiveness is achieved through meeting the remediation goals listed above.

**Document Repositories:** The complete PRAP and other site information may be reviewed at the following locations

Town Of Frankfort, Town Hall  
140 South Litchfield Street  
Frankfort, New York 13340  
(315) 894-8737  
Hours: Please Call

NYSDEC Utica Office  
207 Genesee St  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 793-2554  
(By appointment only)  
Mon - Fri: 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

***For More Information:*** Call or write the following persons for more information about:

**Meeting/Comment Period/**

**Technical Information:**

Mr. Salvatore F. Priore, P.E.  
NYSDEC, Project Manager  
625 Broadway, 11th Floor  
Albany, NY 12233-7014  
(518) 402-9662 or e-mail  
sfpriore@gw.dec.state.ny.us

**Health-Related Information:**

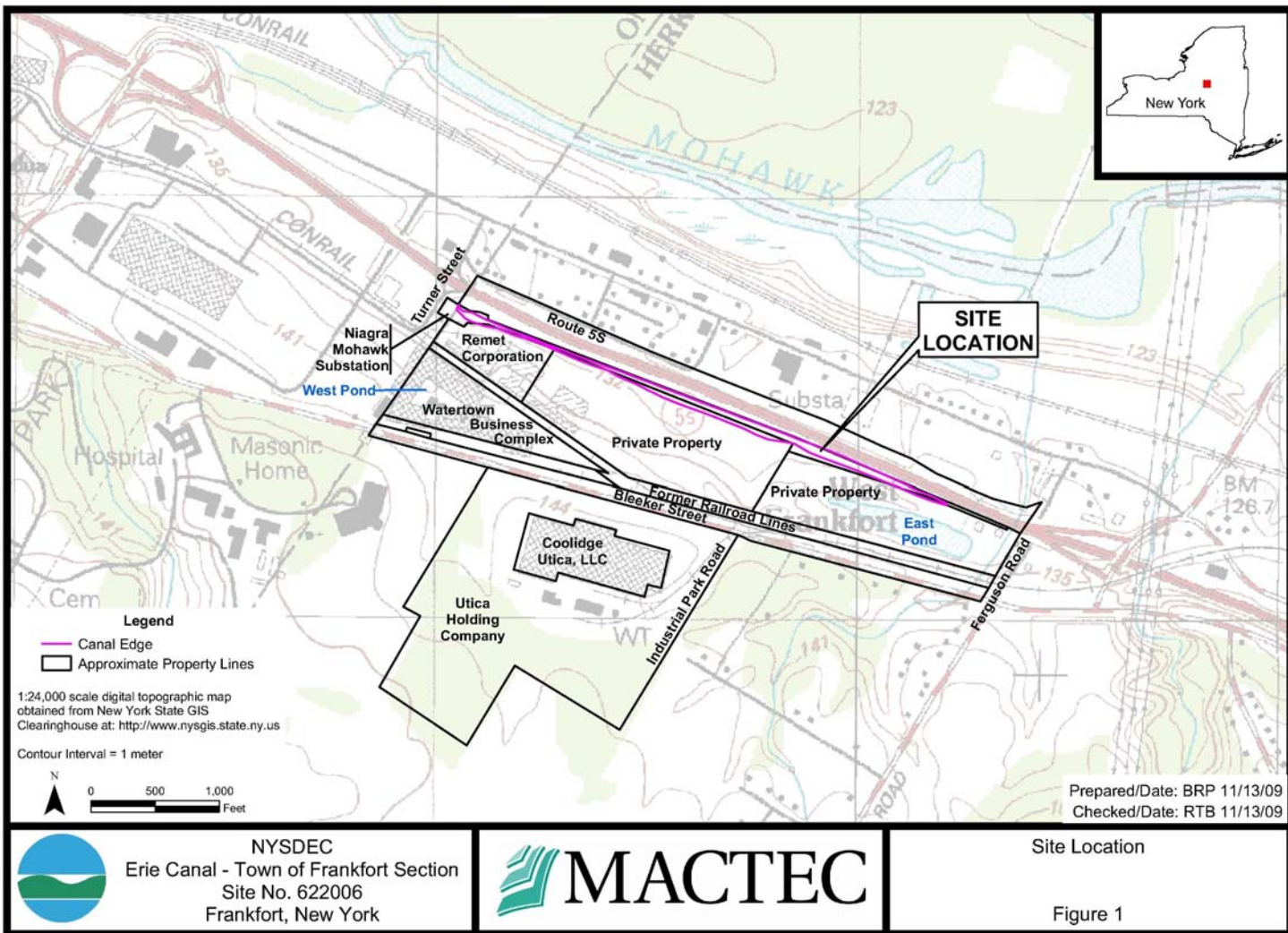
Mr. Greg Rys  
NYSDOH - Herkimer Office  
5665 State Route 5  
Herkimer, New York 13350  
(315) 866-6879

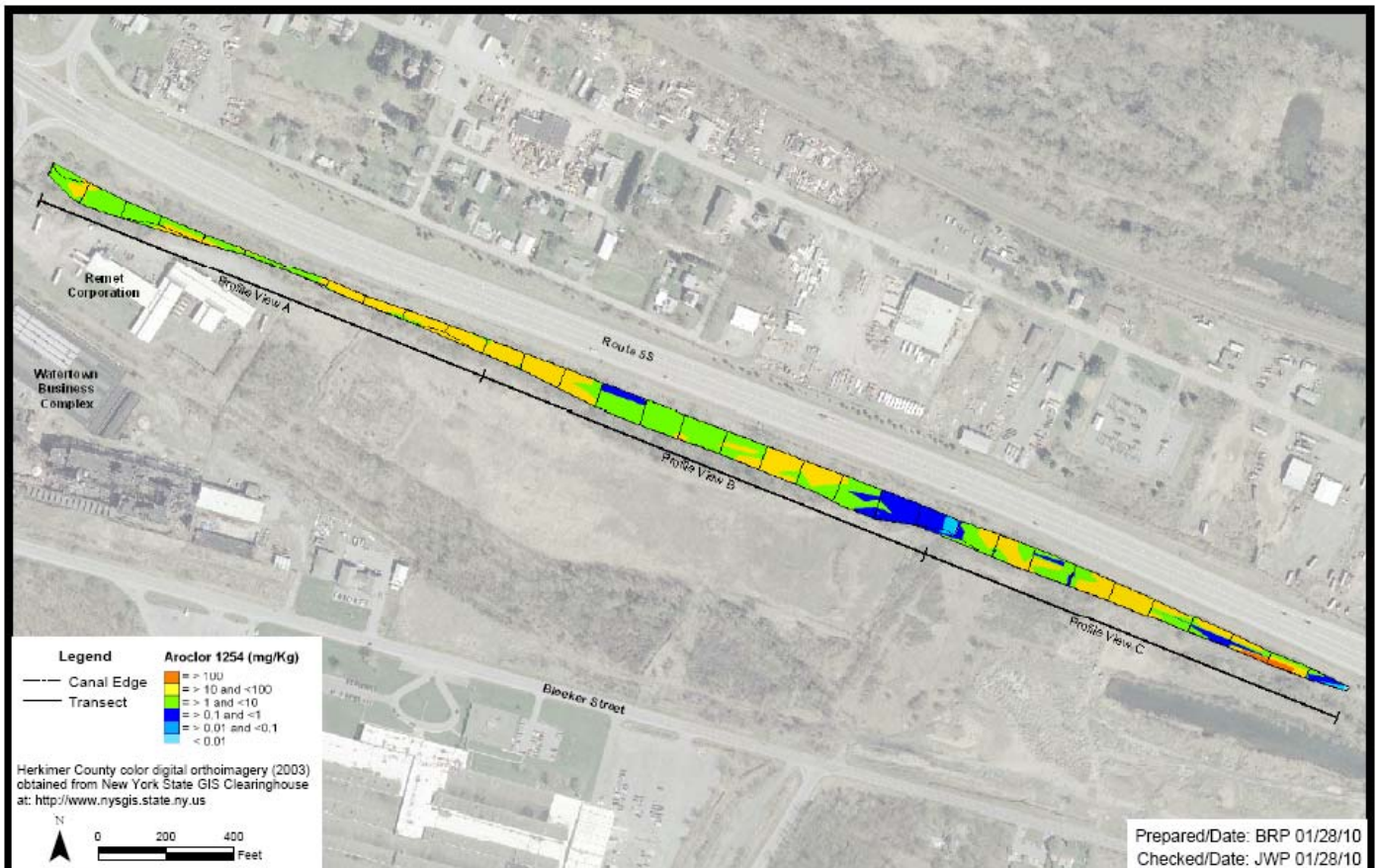
**Citizen Participation:**

Mr. Stephen Litwhiler  
Citizen Participation Specialist  
NYSDEC  
317 Washington Street  
Watertown, NY 13601  
(315) 785-2252

**NYSDEC Online Link to Fact Sheet and PRAP**

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/37560.html>





NYSDEC  
Erie Canal - Town of Frankfort Section  
Site No. 622006  
Frankfort, New York

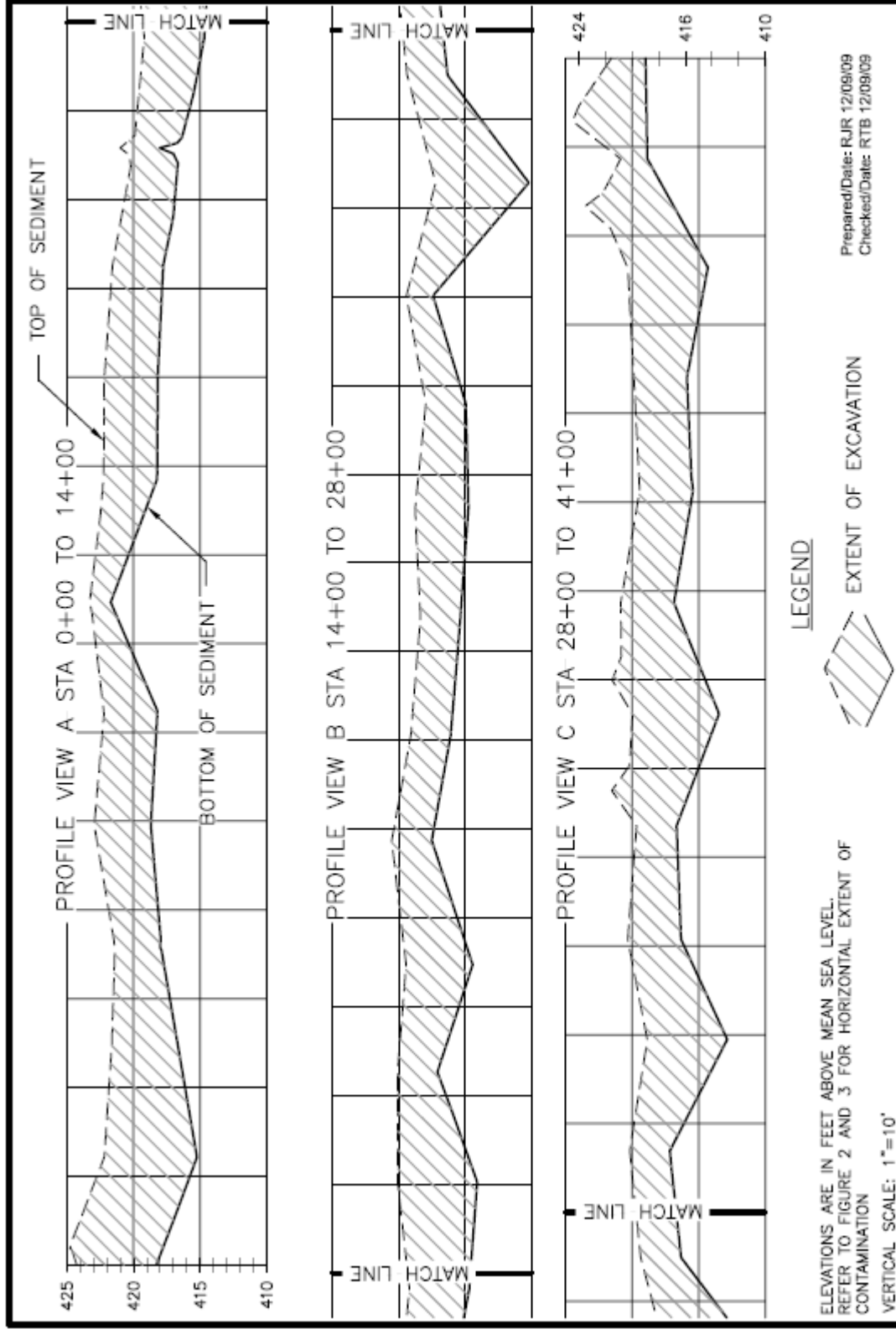


MACTEC

Distribution of  
PCB Contaminated Sediments

Figure 2





NYSDEC  
Erie Canal - Town of Frankfort Section  
Site No. 622006  
Frankfort, New York



Alternative 4: Extent of Proposed  
Sediment Excavation

Figure 4