

# Five-Year Data Review Report



# and General Motors Corporation

Pollution Abatement Services Superfund Site Fourth Operable Unit Oswego, New York

November 2003



# Pollution Abatement Services Superfund Site Oswego, New York Fourth Operable Unit

### Five-Year Data Review Report

This report presents a five-year data review for the fourth operable unit (OU4) of the Pollution Abatement Services (PAS) Superfund Site (the Site) located in Oswego, New York based on the first five years of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) long-term monitoring data. This report has been prepared by Blasland, Bouck & Lee, Inc. (BBL) at the request of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and on behalf of Niagara Mohawk, a National Grid Company (Niagara Mohawk) and General Motors Corporation (GM) (the Settling Defendants).

Section 1 provides an introduction. Section 2 presents an overview of the PCB long-term monitoring activities performed for OU4. Section 3 presents a summary of the PCB long-term monitoring results. Section 4 evaluates the PCB long-term monitoring data obtained over the past five years. Section 5 provides recommendations. Section 6 contains a list of references cited in this document.

#### 1. Introduction

# 1.1 Purpose and Scope

This Five-Year Data Review Report is based on the first five years of annual monitoring data collected under the USEPA-approved *PCB Long-Term Monitoring Plan* (Plan) for the Site OU4 (BBL, 1999a) and the USEPA-approved modification to that Plan (BBL, 2001a). The annual monitoring described in the Plan is in response to the Consent Decree between USEPA, Niagara Mohawk, and GM that was lodged by the Court on December 15, 1998 (USEPA, 1998b), and the September 30, 1997 Record of Decision (ROD) for OU4 (USEPA, 1997). The ROD presents the remedial action selected by the USEPA to address the PCBs detected in the sediments of White and Wine Creeks and the adjacent wetlands. The USEPA-selected remedy presented in the OU4 ROD is long-term annual monitoring of PCB levels in sediments and fish in White and Wine Creeks and the adjacent wetlands.

The Consent Decree states that the USEPA will conduct reviews of whether the remedial action is protective of human health and the environment at least every five years (USEPA, 1998b). As stated in the ROD, long-term monitoring is being conducted at the Site to document that PCB concentrations in the sediments and biota continue to be reduced over time and that further contamination of the area from upstream sources is not occurring (USEPA, 1997).

### 1.2 Site Description

The Site, located on 15 acres near the eastern edge of the City of Oswego, New York, is bounded on the south by East Seneca Street, and on the east, north, and west by wetlands formed along the stream channels of White and Wine Creeks. Just to the north (downstream) of the Site is the confluence of White and Wine Creeks. Wine Creek flows approximately 1,800 feet beyond the confluence (northward) to a channel and into Lake Ontario, which is approximately 0.5 miles north of the Site. Just east of this channel, Wine Creek connects with a wetland adjacent to the residential area known as Smith's Beach. Prior to passing through the Site, White and Wine Creeks are proximate to the East Seneca Street Dump (also referred to and operated as the Oswego County Landfill), and White Creek is proximate to the Niagara Mohawk Fire Training School. The Oswego Castings site is situated upstream of the wetland

adjacent to Smith's Beach, a residential area located on the shore of Lake Ontario.

The area between the Site and Lake Ontario (to the north) is mostly undeveloped and currently includes multiple land uses, including a cemetery, a wetland, and commercial and residential areas.

# 1.3 Site History and Enforcement Activities Summary

The PAS facility was a high-temperature, liquid-chemical waste incineration facility which operated from 1970 through 1977. Beginning in 1973, a series of incidents, including liquid waste spills and the overflow of liquid wastes from lagoons into White Creek, led to the involvement of the USEPA and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) at the Site. Response actions taken from 1973 to 1982 by the USEPA, NYSDEC, and Coast Guard resulted in an oil spill cleanup, the removal of the incineration facilities, drummed wastes, bulk liquid wastes, and contaminated soils, and the closure of two onsite lagoons. According to the 1993 ROD for the Site (USEPA, 1993), these removal actions constitute the first operable unit (OU1).

From 1982 to 1984, the NYSDEC performed a Site Investigation and Remedial Alternatives Evaluation of the Site, which was the initial Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) conducted at the Site. Based on the results of this study, the USEPA signed a ROD in 1984 (OU2) (USEPA, 1984), which specified the following remedial actions: 1) limited excavation and offsite disposal of contaminated materials; 2) installation of a perimeter slurry wall; 3) site grading and capping in accordance with Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) requirements; 4) installation of a leachate collection and treatment system; and 5) groundwater monitoring. The NYSDEC implemented the remedial actions identified in the 1984 ROD, with the exception of the onsite treatment system. Rather than installing an onsite treatment system, the leachate was collected by the NYSDEC from 1986 through 1991 and transported offsite to an approved RCRA treatment, storage, and disposal (TSD) facility.

From 1984 to 1986, the NYSDEC performed an environmental assessment of the area in the vicinity of the Site that included White and Wine Creeks. Based on the results of the environmental assessment, the NYSDEC determined that no remediation of the creeks was required.

In 1989, the NYSDEC began a long-term monitoring program for groundwater, surface water, and sediment in the vicinity of the Site. The results of soil gas and groundwater sampling, and down-hole camera investigations of the existing monitoring wells at the Site, conducted between 1987 and 1990, indicated the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the groundwater outside the slurry wall containment system.

In September 1990, an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) was entered into between the USEPA and a group of potentially responsible parties (PRPs) to conduct a supplemental RI/FS to evaluate the integrity of the existing containment system at the Site, to determine the nature, extent, source, risk, and to identify and evaluate remedial alternatives for areas outside the containment system. The supplemental RI/FS concluded that chemicals detected in the groundwater outside the containment system were attributable to insufficient leachate removal from within the containment system, resulting in a downward hydraulic gradient located at the center of the containment system.

In October 1991, the USEPA and a group of PRPs entered into a leachate-removal AOC. This AOC required interim groundwater removal (IGR) of leachate from within the containment system on a periodic basis. IGR activities were extended by a second AOC entered into in 1994. The supplemental RI report, issued in 1993, concluded that the contamination that was detected in the bedrock groundwater outside the containment system was attributable to the downward migration of contaminants through the lodgement till beneath the containment system, particularly beneath the area of leachate collection well LCW-4 where the lodgement till is relatively thin. The supplemental RI Report noted that the highest

level of contaminants occurred in the vicinity of leachate collection well LCW-4 where downward hydraulic gradients existed prior to implementation of the IGR program. The report concluded that the IGR program effectively reversed these downward hydraulic gradients and mitigated releases from this source.

Based upon the results of the supplemental RI/FS, the USEPA signed a ROD on December 29, 1993 for OU3 (USEPA, 1993). The 1993 ROD incorporated all of the existing components of the 1984 ROD for OU2, as well as several additional components. The selected remedy under the 1993 ROD included: 1) enhancing the present source control system by optimizing the leachate extraction rate and other operating parameters in order to achieve, to the degree practicable, inward horizontal gradients in the overburden and upward vertical gradients from the bedrock toward the containment system; 2) connecting downgradient residents in the Smith's Beach area, who were using residential wells, to the public water supply; and 3) implementing institutional controls on groundwater usage through deed restrictions that covered the Site, as well as downgradient locations, including the Smith's Beach area.

The 1993 ROD also called for several investigations related to the enhancement of the source control system. In addition, as there was some uncertainty related to the source of the PCBs detected in the sediments in the adjacent wetlands and White and Wine Creeks, the ROD called for a study to determine the sources of PCB and pesticide contamination.

In July 1994, an AOC was entered into by the USEPA and a group of PRPs to conduct a supplemental pre-remedial design study (SPRDS) (which was completed in 1996) related to the investigations specified in the 1993 ROD. In September 1994, an AOC was entered into between the USEPA and a group of PRPs to extend the routine leachate removal called for in the 1991 AOC, and, among other things, to connect downgradient residents in the Smith's Beach area, who were using residential wells, to the public water supply. The water-supply connections were completed in July 1995.

In September 1996, an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) was issued by the USEPA for OU3 (USEPA, 1996). The ESD explained the results of the additional investigations called for in the 1993 ROD and presented modifications as follows: 1) identified that bedrock pumping would adversely affect the containment system, streams, and wetlands; 2) modified the contingent remedy for the treatment of the leachate to provide for continued offsite treatment and disposal in lieu of discharge to the City of Oswego Waste Water Treatment Plant; and 3) identified that the Site was not the source of pesticides in surface water or a present source of PCBs in the creek or wetland sediments, and that other upstream sources of PCBs exist. On September 26, 1997, the USEPA and the Performing Settling Defendants signed a Consent Decree for the performance of the operation, maintenance, and long-term monitoring components of the groundwater remedy described in the 1993 ROD, as clarified by the 1996 ESD.

Based upon the results of the 1996 SPRDS, a Focused Feasibility Study (FFS) was completed in August 1997 to identify and evaluate remedial alternatives for the PCB-impacted sediments in the vicinity of the Site (ENVIRON, 1997). That FFS determined that PCB-impacted sediments do not pose a human health risk and that potential ecological risks to conservatively-selected receptor species (e.g., mink) are only marginal. In September 1997, the USEPA signed a ROD for the PCB-impacted sediments in the vicinity of the Site (OU4) (USEPA, 1997), which identified no further action with long-term PCB monitoring as the selected remedy.

In September 1998, the USEPA, Niagara Mohawk, and GM (the Settling Defendants) signed the OU4 Consent Decree, which was subsequently lodged by the Court on December 15, 1998 (USEPA, 1998b). The OU4 Consent Decree identified the scope of the remedy as long-term monitoring of PCBs in sediments and biota in White and Wine Creeks and the adjacent wetlands.

To date, two five-year data review reports have been completed for OU3. The first five-year data review report for OU3 was issued in June 1998 (USEPA, 1998a); and a second five-year data review report for OU3 was submitted to the USEPA in 2003 (de maximis, inc., 2003).

# 2. Overview of the PCB Long-Term Monitoring Activities

In accordance with the requirements set forth in the OU4 Consent Decree and the 1997 ROD for OU4 (USEPA, 1997), the Plan was developed by BBL (BBL, 1999a), the USEPA-approved Supervising Contractor identified in the OU4 Consent Decree. The Plan provides a detailed description of the requirements, methods, and procedures for monitoring the PCB levels in the sediments and biota (fish) in White and Wine Creeks and wetlands adjacent to the Site, and includes the following components: the methodology for the selection of a contractor(s); the methodology for the implementation of the Plan; a Quality Assurance Project Plan; and a Health and Safety Contingency Plan. The Plan was approved by the USEPA in a July 22, 1999 letter (USEPA, 1999). As identified in the Plan, the monitoring activities include sampling of surficial sediments (0 to 3 inch), subsurface sediments (3 to 6 inch and 6 to 12 inch), suspended sediment (trap), and biota (fish). In the third Annual Progress Report (BBL, 2000), BBL proposed that subsurface sediment samples not be collected in the future, and that future long-term monitoring events include the continued collection of surficial (0 to 3 inch) sediment, suspended sediment (trap), and biota (fish) samples in accordance with the Plan. USEPA approved this modification to the Plan on May 30, 2001, as documented in BBL's May 31, 2001 letter to the USEPA (BBL, 2001a).

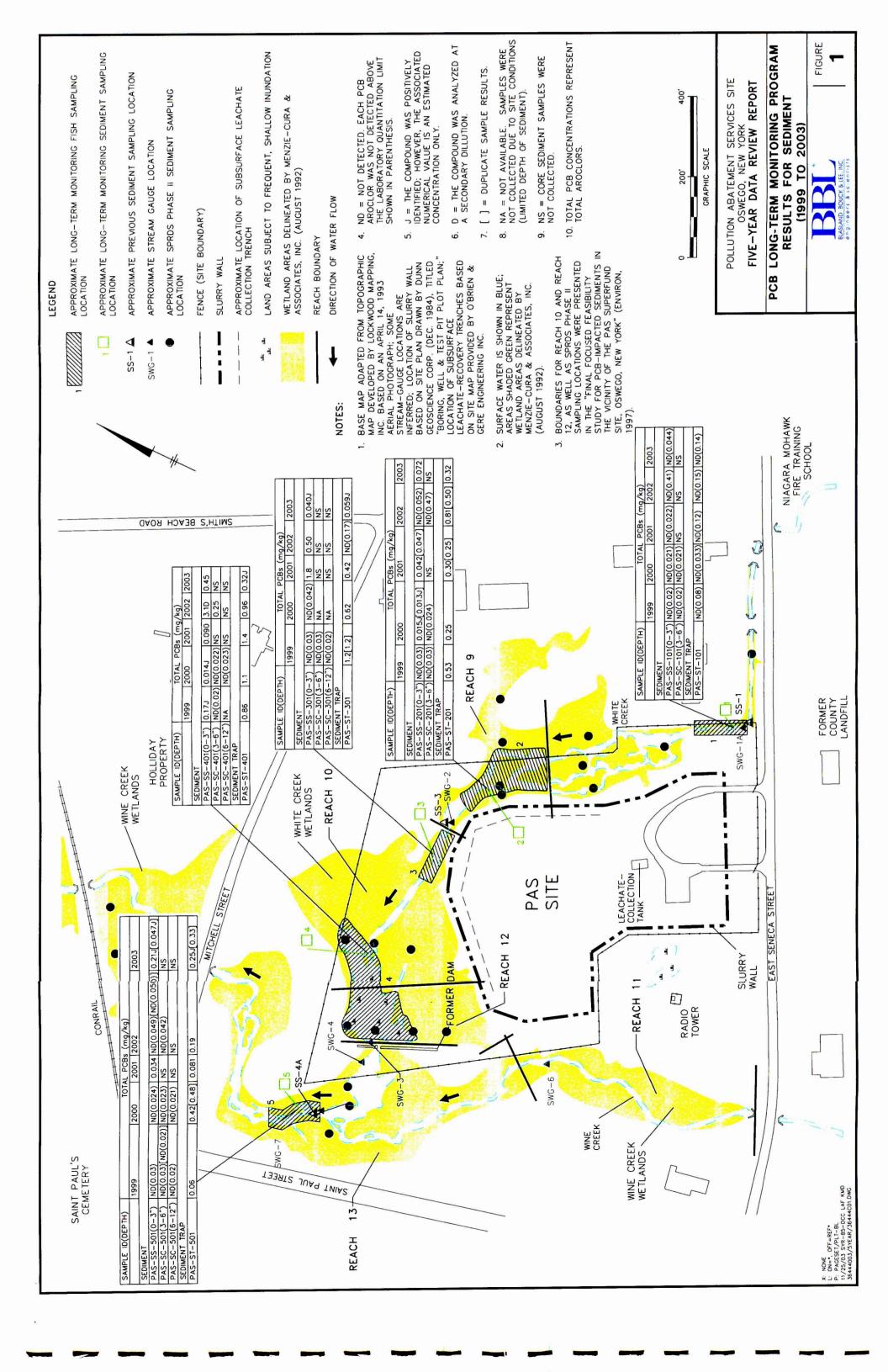
# 2.1 Sample Locations

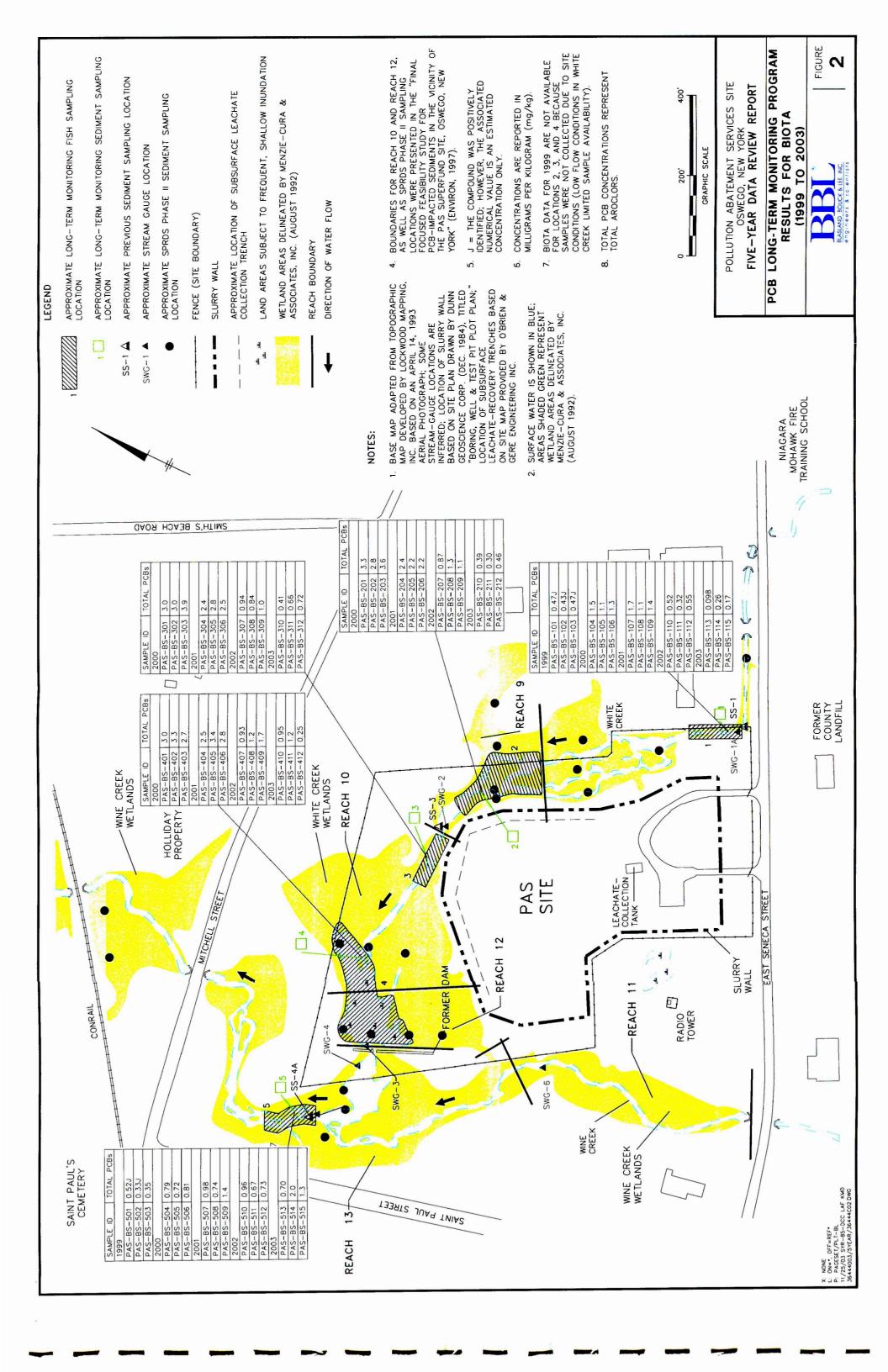
The Plan identified the collection of co-located sediment, sediment trap, and biota samples from five locations in White and Wine Creeks and the adjacent wetlands. The sample locations were identified by the 8-foot sections of iron pipe which were driven into the bank during the initial (1999) annual sampling round. These locations were determined based on the results of a probing exercise conducted by BBL in 1999 to locate prime sediment depositional areas, and have been sampled during each of the five annual sampling events. These locations (shown on Figure 1) are identified below.

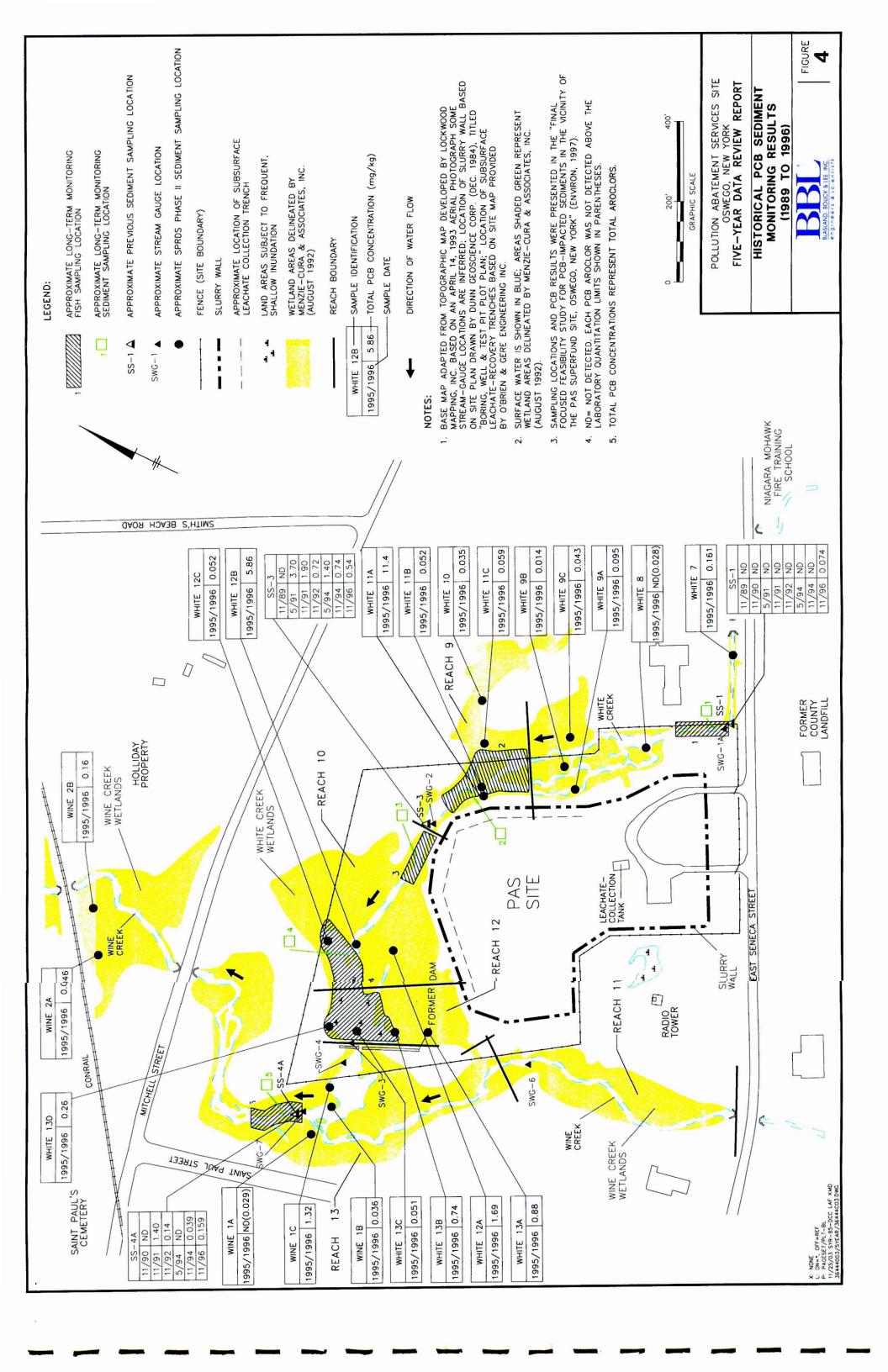
- Location 1: Upstream (east) of the Site, in White Creek, near historical sample location SS-1.
- Location 2: Adjacent to and northeast of the Site, in White Creek, in the vicinity of Phase 2 SPRDS sample location White 11A.
- Location 3: Adjacent to and north of the Site, in White Creek, approximately 50 feet downstream of historical sample location SS-3.
- Location 4: North of the Site in White Creek, in the vicinity of Phase 2 SPRDS sample location White 12B.
- Location 5: Downstream (northwest) of the Site, and downstream of the confluence of White and Wine Creeks, in the vicinity of historical sample location SS-4A.

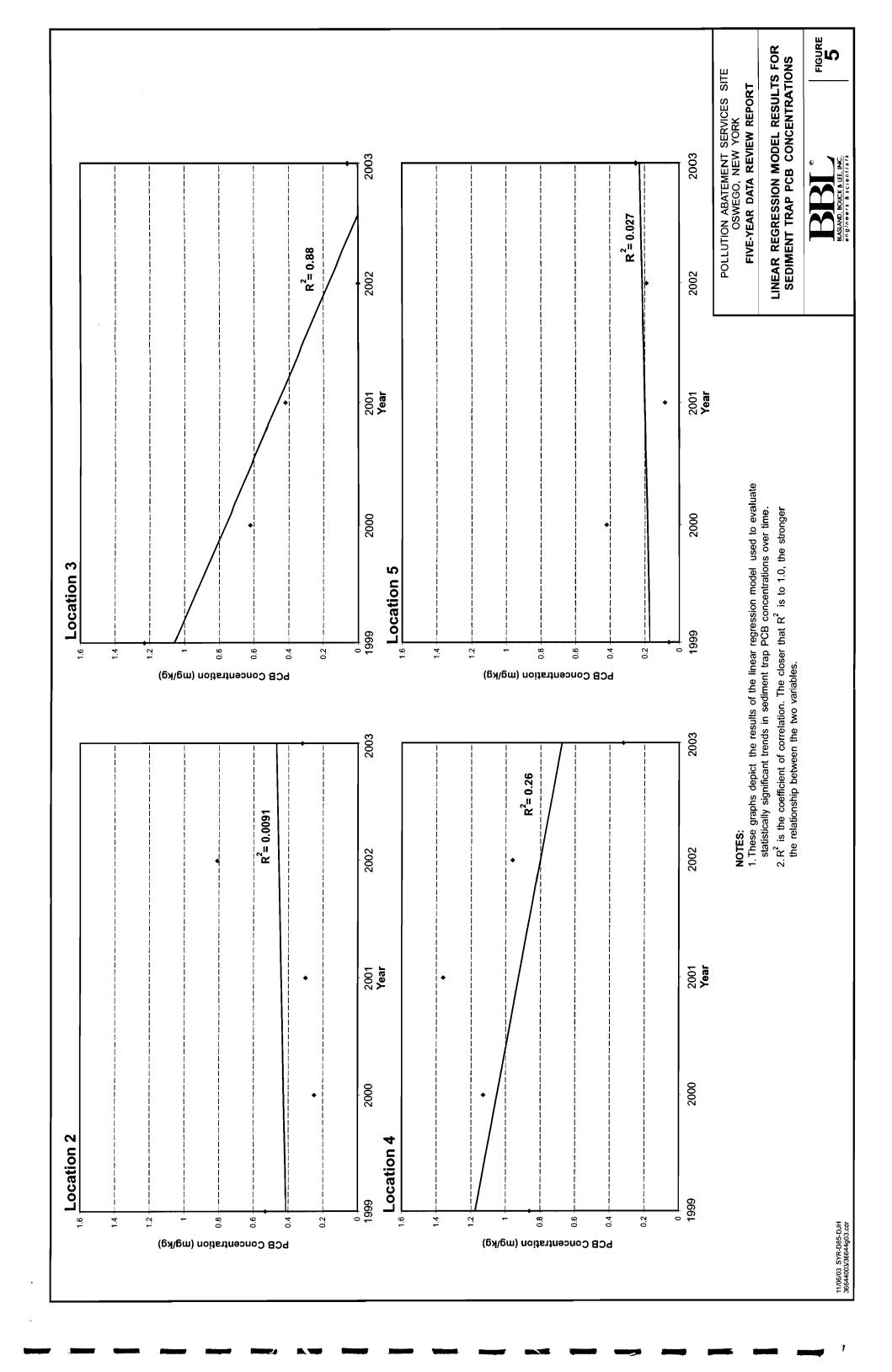
### 2.2 Sediment Sampling

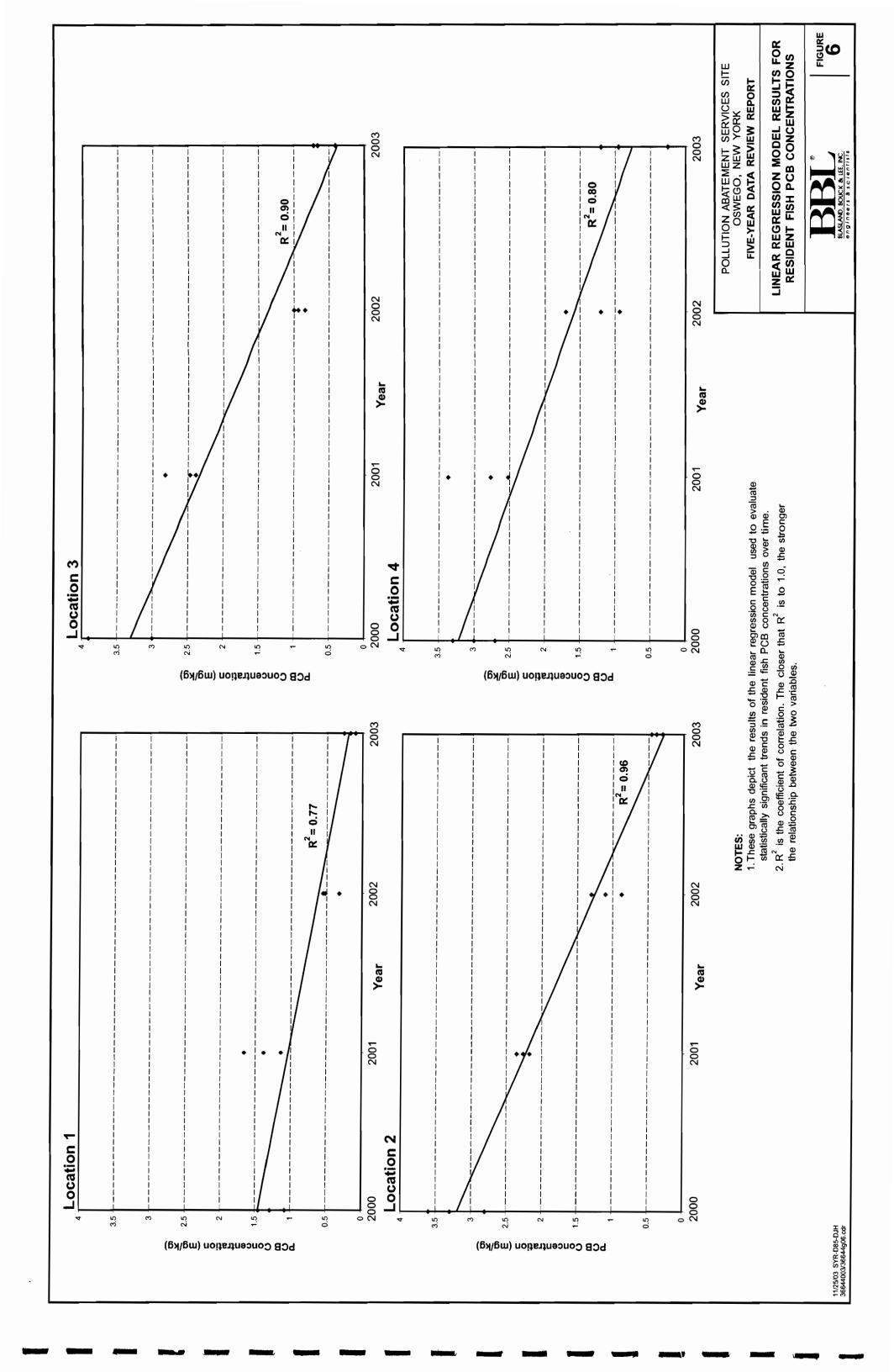
During the five annual sampling events conducted to date, sediment samples were collected by BBL at each of the aforementioned locations using a stainless steel corer. At each sample location, the corer was pushed into the sediment, and slowly pulled out. The sediment cores were extracted from the stainless steel tube onto an aluminum pan using a brass push rod. The sediment samples were homogenized, and placed in the appropriate sampling jars for shipment to the laboratory, in accordance with procedures identified in the Plan.

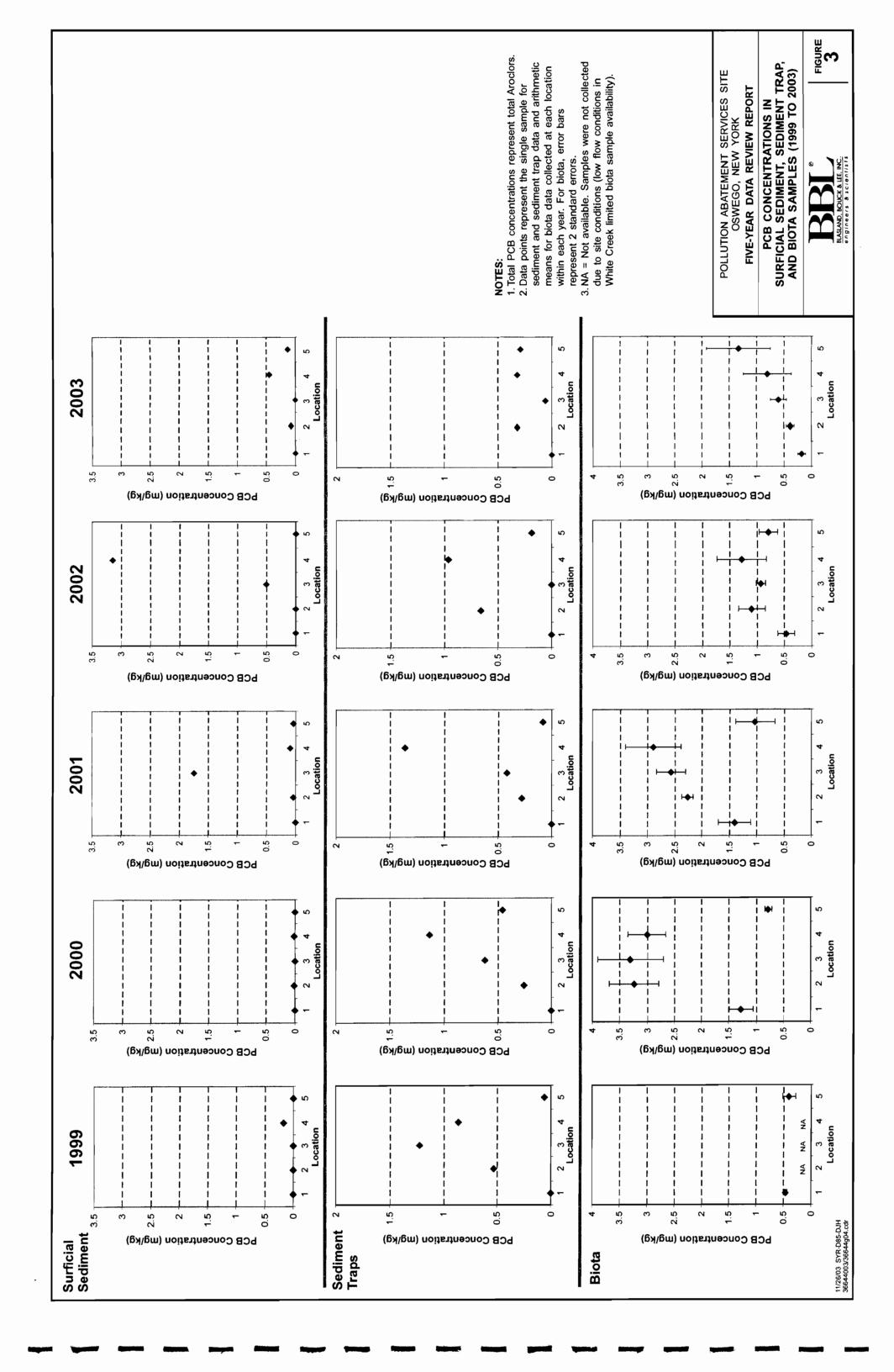














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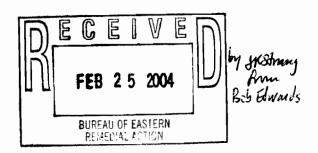
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Transmitted Via Federal Express

November 26, 2003

Ms. Patricia Simmons Pierre Project Manager Central New York Remediation Section – USEPA Region 2 290 Broadway, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor New York, NY 10007-1866



Re: Pollution Abatement Services Superfund Site - Fourth Operable Unit Oswego, New York 738001
Annual Progress Report and Five-Year Data Review Report BBL Project #: 0364.36444 #10

Dear Ms. Simmons Pierre:

On behalf of Niagara Mohawk, a National Grid Company and General Motors Corporation (the Settling Defendants), please find enclosed two copies (one bound and one unbound) of the sixth Annual Progress Report for work activities performed in connection with the fourth operable unit (OU4) at the Pollution Abatement Services (PAS) Superfund Site located in Oswego, New York. The Annual Progress Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements outlined in Section X of the Consent Decree for OU4 between the USEPA and the Settling Defendants. That Consent Decree was lodged by the Court on December 15, 1998.

Also enclosed, pursuant to a request from Mr. Joel Singerman of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), are two copies (one bound and one unbound) of the *Five-Year Data Review Report* that is based on the first five years of PCB long-term monitoring.

Please feel free to call me at (315) 446-2570 (ext. 290) if you have any questions regarding the enclosed.

Sincerely,

BLASLAND, BOUCK & LEE, INC.,

M. Cathy Geraci

Associate

DEP/jlc Enclosures DEC 2 2003 \$5917 cc: Chief, New York/Caribbean Superfund Branch, Office of Regional Counsel, United States
Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2 -- Attention: PAS Superfund Site Attorney
Chief Environmental Enforcement Section, Environment and Natural Resources Division, United
States Department of Justice, Re: DOJ # 90-11-2-2A

Director, Division of Hazardous Waste Remediation, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation -- Attention: PAS Site Project Manager

Mr. Daniel Geraghty, New York State Department of Health

William J. Holzhauer, Esq., Niagara Mohawk, a National Grid Company

Mr. James F. Morgan, Niagara Mohawk, a National Grid Company

Mr. James F. Hartnett, General Motors Corporation

R. William Stephens, Esq., Stephens & Stephens

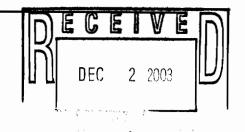
James M. Nuss, P.E., L.S.P., Blasland, Bouck & Lee, Inc.

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# Annual Progress Report January 1, 2003 – December 31, 2003



# and General Motors Corporation

Pollution Abatement Services Superfund Site Fourth Operable Unit Oswego, New York

November 2003



# Pollution Abatement Services Superfund Site Oswego, New York Fourth Operable Unit

Annual Progress Report
Period Covered: January 1, 2003 - December 31, 2003

Presented herein is the sixth Annual Progress Report for the fourth operable unit (OU4) at the Pollution Abatement Services (PAS) Superfund Site (the Site) located in Oswego, New York. This progress report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements set forth in Section X of the OU4 Consent Decree lodged by the Court on December 15, 1998 between the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and Niagara Mohawk, a National Grid Company (Niagara Mohawk) and General Motors Corporation (the Settling Defendants). The activities conducted pursuant to the requirements of the OU4 Consent Decree for the year 2003 are summarized below. The previous (fifth) Annual Progress Report was submitted to the USEPA on January 30, 2003 (BBL, 2003a) and covered the period from January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002.

In accordance with the requirements set forth in the OU4 Consent Decree and the September 1997 Record of Decision (ROD) for OU4 (USEPA, 1997), the August 1999 PCB Long-Term Monitoring Plan (Plan) was developed by Blasland, Bouck & Lee, Inc. (BBL) (BBL, 1999a), the USEPA-approved Supervising Contractor identified in the OU4 Consent Decree. The Plan provides a detailed description of the requirements, methods, and procedures for monitoring the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) levels in the sediments and biota (fish) in the creeks and wetlands adjacent to the Site, and includes the following components: the methodology for the selection of a contractor(s); the methodology for the implementation of the Plan; a Quality Assurance Project Plan; and a Health and Safety Contingency Plan. The Plan was approved by the USEPA in a July 22, 1999 letter (USEPA, 1999a).

As identified in the Plan, the monitoring activities include sampling of surficial sediments (0 to 3 inch), subsurface sediments (3 to 6 inch and 6 to 12 inch), suspended sediment (trap), and biota (fish). In the third Annual Progress Report (BBL, 2000), BBL proposed that subsurface sediment samples not be collected in the future, and that future long-term monitoring events include the continued collection of surficial (0 to 3 inch) sediment, suspended sediment (trap), and biota (fish) samples in accordance with the Plan. USEPA approved this modification to the Plan on May 30, 2001, as documented in BBL's May 31, 2001 letter to the USEPA (BBL, 2001a).

## I. Actions Taken Toward Compliance with the Consent Decree

During this reporting period, the fifth round of annual PCB monitoring activities was completed. The monitoring activities were conducted in accordance with the USEPA-approved Plan, as modified in May 2001. The monitoring activities conducted during the fifth round of PCB annual monitoring activities included collecting surficial (0 to 3 inch) sediment, suspended sediment (trap), and biota (fish) samples in the five specified locations in White Creek and Wine Creek. A detailed description of the monitoring activities completed during the fifth year of the annual PCB monitoring program and a summary of results obtained are presented in Attachment 1. The references cited herein are also listed in Attachment 1.

### II. Analytical Results and Data Generated

The analytical results/data that have been generated during this reporting period, and in association with the OU4 Consent Decree, are solely related to completing the fifth year of annual monitoring identified in the Plan. As previously stated, the monitoring activities included sediment and biota sampling. Laboratory analysis of sediment included PCBs and total organic carbon (TOC), and laboratory analysis of biota included PCBs and percent lipids. A summary of that data is presented in Attachment 1. Two

11/26/2003 P:\ULC\2003\69330146a doc complete copies of the analytical data and validated data reports associated with the fifth year of annual monitoring were submitted to the USEPA (Ms. Patricia Simmons Pierre, USEPA Project Manager) on October 17, 2003 (BBL, 2003b).

### III. Plans and Reports and other Deliverables Completed or Submitted

During this reporting period, the two items listed below were submitted by BBL (on behalf of the Settling Defendants) to the USEPA:

- October 17, 2003 submittal providing two complete copies of the analytical data and validated data reports associated with the fifth year of annual PCB monitoring; and
- November 2003 submittal providing the Five-Year Data Review Report (BBL, 2003c), as requested from Mr. Joel Singerman of USEPA.

# IV. Planned Activities for 2004

In accordance with the Plan and the USEPA-approved modification to that Plan, the sixth annual sediment and biota monitoring event will be conducted during the late spring/early summer (i.e., May through July) 2004. The sediment and biota sampling activities for the year 2004 will include collecting and analyzing surficial (0 to 3 inch) sediment deposits, suspended sediment (trap), and biota samples from the five specified locations in White Creek and Wine Creek. In accordance with Paragraph 20 of the OU4 Consent Decree, the Settling Defendants will notify the USEPA not less than 21 days in advance of the annual monitoring event to be conducted during the year 2004.

The reporting requirements for the sixth annual monitoring event to be followed by the Settling Defendants will be consistent with those identified in the Plan, and the USEPA-approved modification to the schedule for submitting the annual progress reports identified in a November 23, 1999 letter to Niagara Mohawk from the USEPA (USEPA, 1999b). Accordingly, that annual progress report will be submitted no later than 90 days from the date on which the sediment traps are pulled from their locations at the conclusion of the sixth annual monitoring event.

### V. Delays Encountered or Anticipated

No delays were encountered during 2003 and no delays are anticipated during 2004.

### VI. Modifications to Plans or Schedules

There were no modifications to the Plan and/or associated schedules during 2003.

### VII. Actions Taken in Support of the Community Relations Plan

In accordance with the requirements of the OU4 Consent Decree, the Settling Defendants will, upon notice by the USEPA, participate in the Community Relations Plan developed by the USEPA. To date, the USEPA has not requested any participation by the Settling Defendants. Accordingly, no actions have been taken by the Settling Defendants in support of the USEPA's Community Relations Plan.

# Attachment 1

**PCB Long-Term Monitoring Data Report** 



# Pollution Abatement Services Superfund Site Oswego, New York Fourth Operable Unit

Annual Progress Report
Period Covered: January 1, 2003 - December 31, 2003

# Attachment 1 - PCB Long-Term Monitoring Data Report

This attachment provides a summary of the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) long-term monitoring data collected in 2003 at the Pollution Abatement Services (PAS) Superfund Site (the Site) located in Oswego, New York. Section 1 provides an introduction. Section 2 presents an overview of the PCB long-term monitoring activities performed at the Site. Section 3 summarizes the PCB long-term monitoring activities performed in 2003. Section 4 summarizes the results of the 2003 monitoring. Section 5 contains a list of references cited in this document.

An evaluation of the first five years of PCB long-term monitoring data, including the 2003 data, is provided in the *Five-Year Data Review Report* (BBL, 2003c).

#### 1. Introduction

This attachment to the sixth *Annual Progress Report* details the fifth year of annual monitoring data collected under the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)-approved *PCB Long-Term Monitoring Plan* (Plan) for the fourth operable unit (OU4) of the PAS Site [Blasland, Bouck & Lee, Inc. (BBL), 1999a] and the USEPA-approved modification to that Plan (BBL, 2001a). The annual monitoring described in the Plan is in response to the Consent Decree lodged by the Court on December 15, 1998 (USEPA, 1998), and the September 30, 1997 *Record of Decision* (ROD) for OU4 (USEPA, 1997). The ROD presents the remedial action selected by the USEPA to address the PCBs detected in the sediments of White and Wine Creeks and the adjacent wetlands. The USEPA-selected remedy presented in the OU4 ROD is long-term annual monitoring of PCB levels in sediments and fish in White and Wine Creeks and the adjacent wetlands.

As documented in the PAS OU4 Consent Decree (USEPA, 1998), the 1996 Phase 2 Supplemental Pre-Remedial Design Study (SPRDS) concluded that although the Site was a source of PCBs before the construction of the containment facility in 1986, the Site is not a present source of PCBs for sediments in White and Wine Creeks or the adjacent wetlands, and that other potential upstream sources of PCBs exist. Additionally, previous PCB sediment monitoring data, collected prior to 1996, indicate that the associated risk levels were relatively low and that there had been an overall decline in PCB concentrations in the creeks (USEPA, 1998).

# 2. Overview of the PCB Long-Term Monitoring Activities

The PCB long-term monitoring activities for the Site identified in the Plan include collecting surficial sediment (0 to 3 inch), subsurface sediment (3 to 6 inch and 6 to 12 inch), suspended sediment (trap), and biota (fish) samples. In the third Annual Progress Report (BBL, 2000), BBL proposed that subsurface sediment samples not be collected in the future, and that future long-term monitoring events include the continued collection of surficial (0 to 3 inch) sediment, suspended sediment (trap), and biota (fish) samples in accordance with the Plan. USEPA

approved this modification to the Plan on May 30, 2001 (BBL, 2001a). The results of the first four years of the long-term monitoring program, together with the relevant conclusions, were presented to the USEPA in the previous *Annual Progress Reports* (BBL, 1999b; BBL, 2000; BBL, 2001b; BBL, 2003a). The data and conclusions presented in these reports are summarized below.

- Surficial sediment PCB concentrations in White and Wine Creeks were low (and typically non-detect). Maximum PCB concentrations were 0.17 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) in 1999, 0.015 mg/kg in 2000, 1.8 mg/kg in 2001, and 3.1 mg/kg in 2002.
- PCB concentrations were also typically low in the suspended sediment (trap) samples. Maximum PCB concentrations were 1.2 mg/kg in 1999, 1.1 mg/kg in 2000, 1.4 mg/kg in 2001, and 0.96 mg/kg in 2002.
- PCBs were also detected in fish tissue samples collected during the first four rounds of the long-term monitoring program. Maximum PCB concentrations were 0.52 mg/kg in 1999, 3.9 mg/kg in 2000, 3.4 mg/kg in 2001, and 1.7 mg/kg in 2002.

The results of the first four years of the long-term monitoring program confirmed the USEPA (1998) conclusion that sediment PCB concentrations had decreased since the previous rounds of sampling that were conducted prior to 1996.

### 3. 2003 PCB Long-Term Monitoring Activities

The monitoring activities conducted by BBL during the fifth annual (2003) PCB long-term monitoring event included:

- Sampling of surficial (0- to 3-inch) sediments in White and Wine Creeks and the adjacent wetland areas, at locations upstream, adjacent to, and downstream of the Site;
- Installing and sampling of sediment traps upstream, adjacent to, and downstream of the Site;
   and
- Biota sampling of yearling fish.

As identified in the OU4 ROD and Consent Decree, data generated from the PCB long-term monitoring program is used to monitor PCB concentrations in sediments and biota of White and Wine Creeks and the adjacent wetlands.

### 3.1 Methodology

This section identifies the sampling locations and describes the methods that were used for the surficial sediment, sediment trap, and biota sampling, and the laboratory analyses. The methods employed followed the procedures outlined in the Plan.

### 3.1.1 Sample Locations

The Plan identified the collection of co-located sediment, sediment trap, and biota samples from five locations in White and Wine Creeks and the adjacent wetlands. The sample locations were identified by the 8-foot sections of iron pipe which were driven into the bank during the 1999

11/26/03 P:\ULC\2003\69430146a.doc sampling round. These locations were determined based on the results of a probing exercise conducted by BBL in 1999 to locate prime sediment depositional areas, and have been sampled during each of the five annual sampling events. These locations (shown on Figure 1) are identified below.

Location 1: Upstream (east) of the Site, in White Creek, near historical sample location SS-1.

Location 2: Adjacent to and northeast of the Site, in White Creek, in the vicinity of Phase 2 SPRDS sample location White 11A.

Location 3: Adjacent to and north of the Site, in White Creek, approximately 50 feet downstream of historical sample location SS-3.

Location 4: North of the Site in White Creek, in the vicinity of Phase 2 SPRDS sample location White 12B.

Location 5: Downstream (northwest) of the Site, and downstream of the confluence of White and Wine Creeks, in the vicinity of historical sample location SS-4A.

### 3.1.2 Sediment Sampling

Sediment sampling was conducted on May 29, 2003 by BBL. Mr. John Strang, a representative from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), provided oversight during the sediment sampling. Surficial sediment samples were collected at each of the aforementioned locations from 0 to 3 inches using a stainless steel corer. At each sample location, the corer was pushed into the sediment, and slowly pulled out. The top three inches of the sediment cores were extracted from the stainless steel tube onto an aluminum pan using a brass push rod. The sediment samples were homogenized, and placed in the appropriate sampling jars for shipment to the laboratory, in accordance with procedures identified in the Plan.

# 3.1.3 Sediment Traps

Sediment traps were placed by BBL at each of the five sediment sampling locations described above on June 3, 2003. The sediment traps consisted of pre-cleaned sample jars placed in stainless steel pans. The traps were monitored periodically by BBL for the collection of sediment deposition. Sediment samples from the traps were retrieved by BBL from all locations on July 17, 2003, and placed in the appropriate sampling jars for shipment to the laboratory, in accordance with the procedures identified in the Plan.

### 3.1.4 Biota Sampling

Electrofishing of White and Wine Creeks was conducted on May 29 and June 3, 2003 by BBL. Locations 3, 4, and 5 were sampled on May 29, 2003, and Locations 1 and 2 were sampled on June 3, 2003. Fallen trees that had previously hindered sampling at Locations 1 and 2 were cleared on June 3, 2003, and these locations were sampled later that day. Samples from Locations 1 and 2 were, however, mistakenly labeled on the chains-of-custody as being collected on May 29, 2003. Mr. John Strang (NYSDEC) provided oversight during the May 29 biota sampling, but was not present during the June 3 biota sampling due to scheduling conflicts. The objective of the electrofishing, as identified in the Plan, was to collect three composite fish samples from each location. The target species were minnows (e.g., creek chubs, fathead

11/26/03 P:ULC\2003\69430146a.doc minnows, bluntnose minnows) and/or sticklebacks. Three complete samples of yearling-size creek chubs were collected from the most downstream location (Location 5, in Wine Creek). Various combinations of three-spine sticklebacks, brook sticklebacks, and creek chubs were collected from the four locations in White Creek.

The biota sampling was conducted using a backpack electrofishing unit. Following collection, the appropriate target fish were placed in labeled Ziploc®-type bags, and stored on ice prior to sample processing. Sample processing included dividing the fish into three composite samples per location. Individual fish lengths, numbers of individuals per sample, and total sample weight were recorded. The samples were then wrapped and shipped to the analytical laboratory, in accordance with the procedures detailed in the Plan.

### 3.1.5 Laboratory Analyses

Laboratory analyses of sediments included PCBs and total organic carbon (TOC), in accordance with the requirements set forth in the Plan. The sediment analyses were performed by Buck Laboratories (Cortland, New York). The sediment and sediment trap samples were analyzed for PCBs using USEPA SW-846 Method 8082 (USEPA, 1986), as referenced in the current NYSDEC Analytical Services Protocol (ASP), and for TOC using USEPA Region 2's Lloyd Kahn Method (USEPA, 1988). The biota samples were analyzed by EnChem Inc. (Green Bay, Wisconsin) for PCBs using USEPA SW-846 Method 8082, as referenced in the current NYSDEC ASP, and for percent lipids using standard gravimetric techniques. As specified in the OU4 Consent Decree (Paragraph 21), two copies of the validated PCB analytical results, as well as TOC and percent lipids data, were submitted to the USEPA with an October 17, 2003 letter to Ms. Patricia Simmons Pierre, Project Manager (BBL, 2003b).

### 3.2 2003 Data Results

This section presents the results obtained during the fifth year of the long-term PCB monitoring program. The results of the surficial sediment, sediment trap, and biota sampling activities are detailed below. In addition, a preliminary evaluation of potential ecological affects is also presented.

# 3.2.1 Sediment Sampling Results

Analytical results for surficial sediment samples from the fifth year of the PCB long-term monitoring program are presented in Table 1 and shown on Figure 1. PCBs were detected in four of the five surficial sediment samples at concentrations up to 0.45 mg/kg (Location 4). PCBs were not detected at a concentration exceeding the associated laboratory quantitation limits in the surficial sediment sample collected from upstream Location 1 (PAS-SS-101). Surficial sediment TOC concentrations ranged from approximately 0.4% (PAS-SS-101) to 3.3% (PAS-SS-401).

# 3.2.2 Sediment Trap Sampling Results

Analytical results for sediment trap samples from the fifth year of the PCB long-term monitoring program are presented in Table 2 and shown on Figure 1. PCBs were detected in four of the five sediment trap samples, at concentrations ranging from an estimated 0.059 mg/kg (PAS-ST-301) to 0.32 mg/kg (PAS-ST-201 and PAS-ST-401). PCBs were not detected at a concentration exceeding the associated laboratory quantitation limits from the trap sample collected from

upstream Location 1 (PAS-ST-101). Sediment trap TOC concentrations ranged from approximately 2.1% (PAS-ST-201) to 7.0% (PAS-ST-401).

### 3.2.3 Biota Sampling Results

Analytical results for biota samples from the fifth year of the PCB long-term monitoring program are presented in Table 3 and shown on Figure 2. PCBs were detected in each of the biota samples. PCB concentrations were lowest for samples collected from upstream Location 1 (0.098 to 0.26 mg/kg), and highest for samples collected from Locations 4 and 5 (0.25 to 2.0 mg/kg). The arithmetic mean for all of the samples collected in 2003 is 0.66 mg/kg. Lipid content was higher for creek chubs (6.27% to 8.06%) than for sticklebacks (0.88% to 5.73%).

#### 3.2.4 Discussion

The fifth year (2003) of the annual PCB long-term monitoring program has provided data that are useful for evaluating current conditions within White and Wine Creeks. These data are consistent with the previous four rounds of monitoring data and are relatively low. These data also suggest that the PCB concentrations in the sediment trap samples vary depending on the location. Consistent with previous data, PCBs were not detected in surficial sediment and sediment trap samples from the upstream location. Although PCBs are detected in resident fish, the PCB concentrations in the 2003 samples are lower than previously detected levels. The Five-Year Data Review Report discusses the five years of PCB long-term monitoring data in detail.

One objective of the long-term monitoring program, as specified in the OU4 Consent Decree, is to periodically evaluate potential ecological risks. Previously, a quantitative evaluation of ecological risks was presented in Appendix B of the *Focused Feasibility Study* (ENVIRON, 1997). According to the food web model used in the ecological risk assessment, an assumed fish total PCB concentration of 1.0 mg/kg resulted in hazard quotients (HQs) of 0.82 for mink and 0.67 for green heron, and an assumed fish total PCB concentration of 2.0 mg/kg resulted in HQs of 1.70 for mink and 1.39 for green heron. From a risk perspective, HQ values less than 1 represent minimal ecological risk, HQ values between 1 and 10 are considered to represent a level of risk that potentially may be manifested as effects on some individual organisms, and HQ values greater than 10 may be indicative of potential risk at the population level.

All but one of the 2003 fish PCB concentrations are below 2.0 mg/kg (sample PAS-BS-514 from Location 5 had a concentration of 2.0 mg/kg) (Table 3). Using the assumptions presented by ENVIRON in its risk assessment that was included in the *Focused Feasibility Study*, the arithmetic mean PCB concentration (0.66 mg/kg) of the 2003 fish samples would result in HQ values less than those generated using an assumed fish PCB concentration of 1.0 mg/kg. Given the fact that the HQ values based on arithmetic mean of the 2003 data would be less than 1, it is unlikely that population-level ecological effects are occurring at the Site.

### 4. Summary

In 2003, surficial sediment, suspended sediment, and biota were collected as part of the PCB long-term monitoring program for OU4 of the Site. The data collected in 2003 indicate the following:

 PCBs (maximum concentration of 0.45 mg/kg) were detected in four out of five surficial sediment samples from White and Wine Creeks, and the concentrations are lower than those detected as part of the 1996 Phase 2 SPRDS activities. PCBs were not detected in the surficial sediment sample from upstream Location 1.

- PCBs (maximum concentration of 0.32 mg/kg) were detected in four out of five sediment trap samples. PCBs were not detected in the sediment trap sample from upstream Location 1.
- PCBs were detected in fish samples from all five locations, at concentrations equal to or less than 2.0 mg/kg and with an arithmetic mean PCB concentration of 0.66 mg/kg. The upstream location had the lowest PCB concentrations.
- Based on the results of a previous site-specific ecological risk assessment (ENVIRON, 1997), fish PCB concentrations in White and Wine Creeks do not represent a significant ecological risk because the HQ value would be less than 1 based on the 2003 data.

According to the Plan and the USEPA-approved modification to that Plan, the schedule for monitoring activities in the year 2004 involves collecting another round of sediment (surficial only), biota, and sediment trap samples. Results of the future monitoring rounds along with the existing historical data and the results of the five previous rounds of sampling will be used to 1) monitor PCB concentrations in sediments and biota of White and Wine Creeks and the adjacent wetlands; and 2) confirm that PCB concentrations continue to decline over time.

### 5. References

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11/26/03 P:\JLC\2003\69430146a.doc ENVIRON. 1997. Final Focused Feasibility Study for PCB-Impacted Sediments in the Vicinity of the PAS Superfund Site, Oswego, New York. Arlington, VA. August 20, 1997.

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USEPA. 1999a. Letter from Patricia Simmons of USEPA to M. Cathy Geraci of BBL approving the *PCB Long-Term Monitoring Plan*. July 22, 1999.

USEPA. 1999b. Letter from Carol Berns of USEPA to William Weiss, Esq., of Niagara Mohawk regarding annual report submittal schedule. November 23, 1999.

Table 1

# Pollution Abatement Services Superfund Site Operable Unit 4 Oswego, New York PCB Long-Term Monitoring Program Report

# Surficial Sediment Sample Results for PCBs and TOC (2003)

| Location | Sample<br>Identification | Total PCB<br>Concentration<br>(mg/kg) | TOC<br>(mg/kg)  |
|----------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| _ 1      | PAS-SS-101               | ND(0.044)                             | 4,010           |
| 2        | PAS-SS-201               | 0.072                                 | 27,800          |
| 3        | PAS-SS-301               | 0.040 J                               | 6,310           |
| 4        | PAS-SS-401               | 0.45                                  | 32,500          |
| 5        | PAS-SS-501               | 0.21 J [0.047 J]                      | 12,800 [10,700] |

- 1. Samples were collected by Blasland, Bouck & Lee, Inc. on May 29, 2003.
- 2. Samples were analyzed for PCBs using the USEPA SW-846 Method 8082 and for total organic carbon (TOC) using USEPA Region 2's Lloyd Kahn Method.
- 3. ND = Not detected. Each PCB Aroclor was not detected above the laboratory quantitation limit shown in parentheses.
- 4. Duplicate results in brackets.
- 5. J = The compound was positively identified; however, the associated numerical value is an estimated concentration only.
- 6. All samples collected from the 0- to 3-inch interval.
- 7. Total PCB concentrations represent total Aroclors.

# Pollution Abatement Services Superfund Site Operable Unit 4 Oswego, New York PCB Long-Term Monitoring Program Report

# Sediment Trap Sample Results for PCBs and TOC (2003)

|          |                       | Total PCB Concentration | TOC             |
|----------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Location | Sample Identification | (mg/kg)                 | (mg/kg)         |
| 1        | PAS-ST-101            | ND (0.14)               | 30,600          |
| 2        | PAS-ST-201            | 0.32                    | 21,000          |
| 3        | PAS-ST-301            | 0.059 J                 | 27,700          |
| 4        | PAS-ST-401            | 0.32 J                  | 69,600          |
| 5        | PAS-ST-501            | 0.25 J [0.33]           | 40,100 [45,600] |

- 1. Sediment traps were placed by Blasland, Bouck & Lee, Inc. on June 3, 2003, and trap sediment samples were collected on July 17, 2003.
- 2. Samples were analyzed for PCBs using the USEPA SW-846 Method 8082 and for total organic carbon (TOC) using USEPA Region 2's Lloyd Kahn Method.
- 3. ND = Not detected. Each PCB Aroclor was not detected above the laboratory quantitation limit shown in parentheses.
- 4. Duplicate results in brackets.
- 5. J = The compound was positively identified; however, the associated numerical value is an estimated concentration only.
- 6. Total PCB concentrations represent total Aroclors

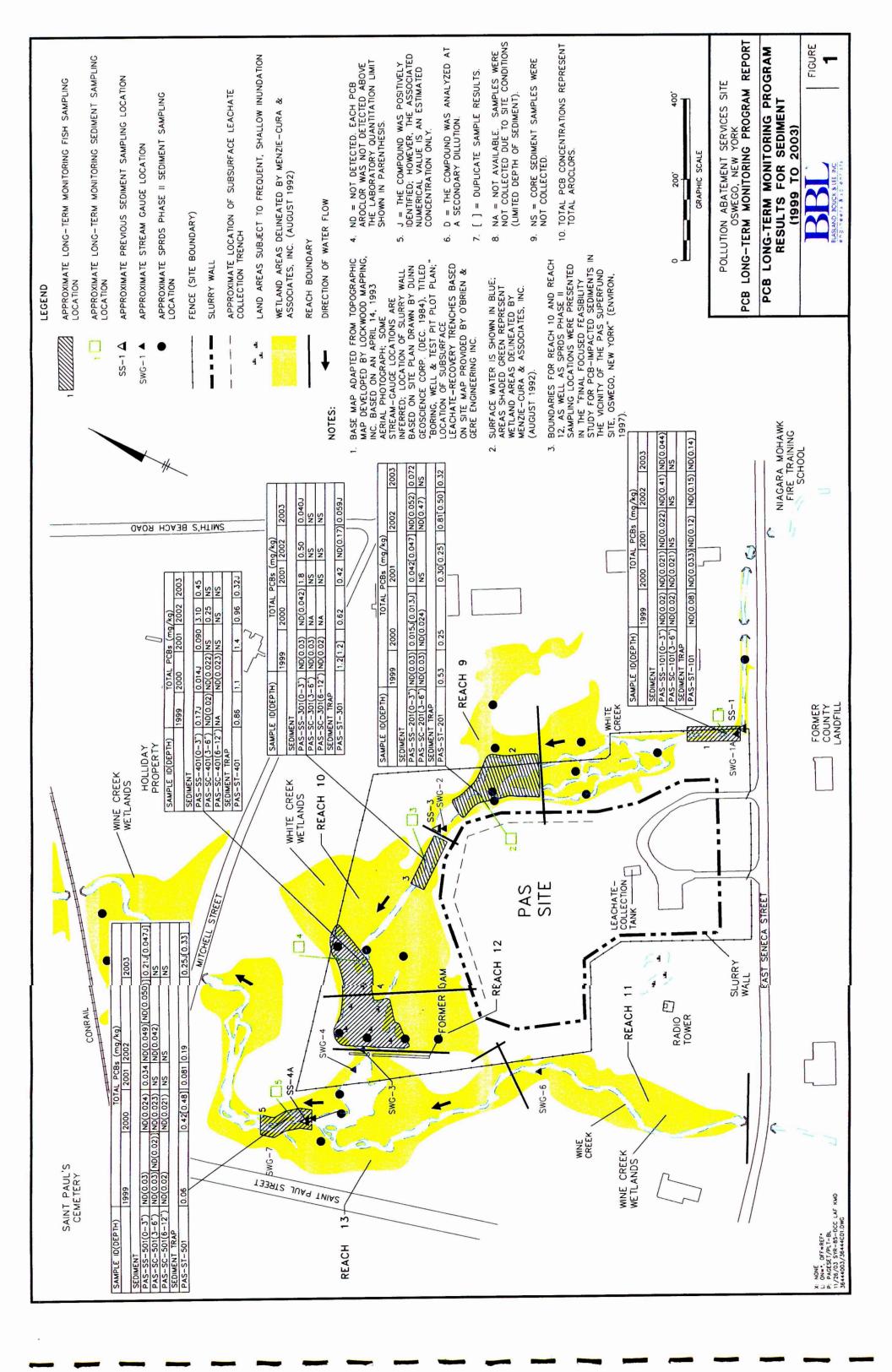
Table 3

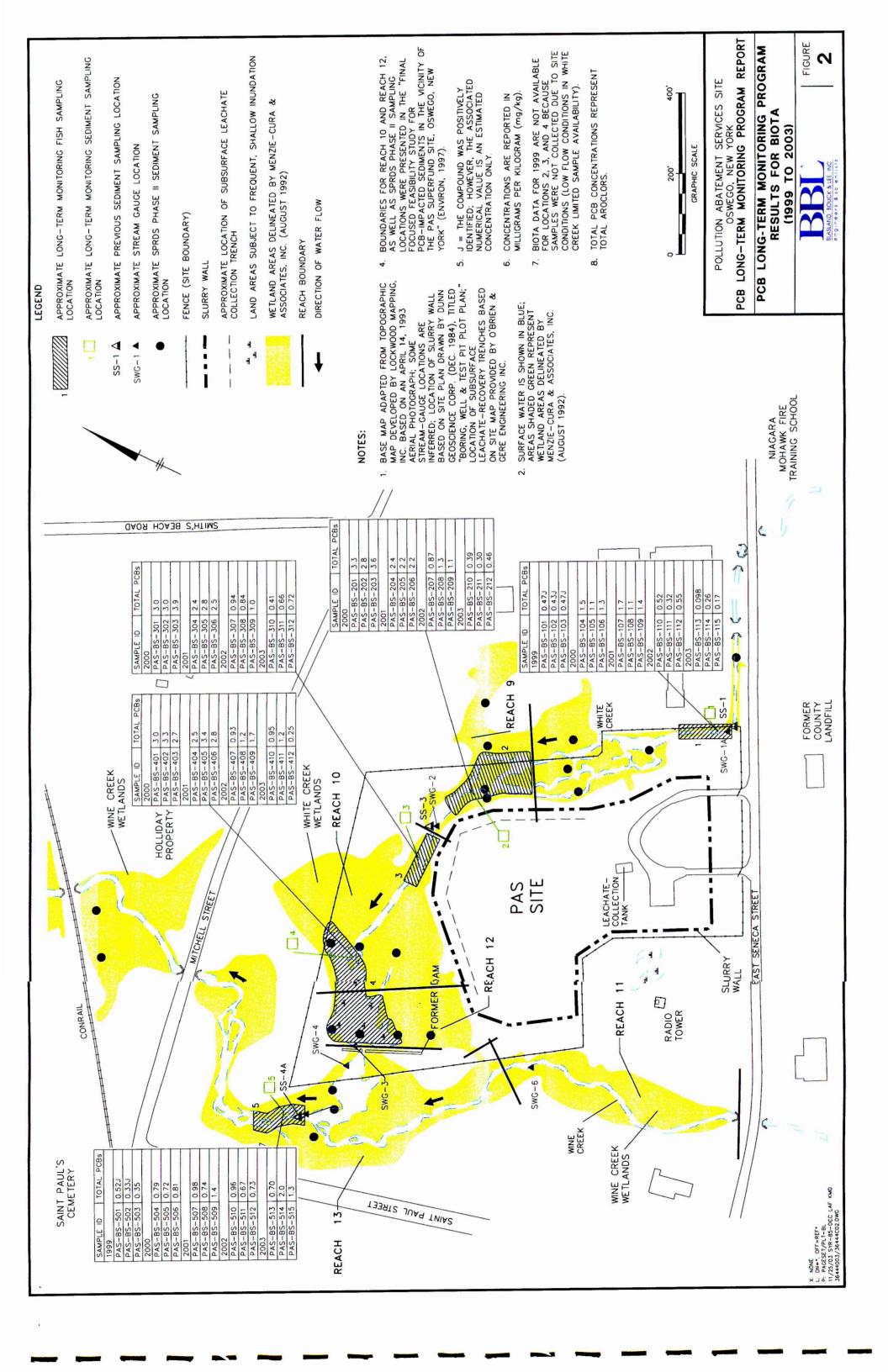
# Pollution Abatement Services Superfund Site Operable Unit 4 Oswego, New York PCB Long-Term Monitoring Program Report

# Biota Sample Results for PCBs and Percent Lipids (2003)

| Location | Sample<br>Identification | Species                 | No. of<br>Individuals<br>per Sample | Length<br>Range<br>(cm) | Total<br>Sample<br>Weight (g) | Lipid (%) | Total PCB<br>Concentration<br>(mg/kg) |
|----------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
|          | PAS-BS-113               | Brook Stickleback       | 13                                  | 4.8 - 5.1               | 13.6                          | 0.92      | 0.098                                 |
| 1        | PAS-BS-114               | Three-Spine Stickleback | 20                                  | 5.1 - 7.1               | 36.1                          | 5.46      | 0.26                                  |
|          | PAS-BS-115               | Three-Spine Stickleback | 18                                  | 5.2 - 7.4               | 32.2                          | 5.73      | 0.17                                  |
|          | PAS-BS-210               | Brook Stickleback       | 9                                   | 4.7 - 5.1               | 11.3                          | 0.88      | 0.39                                  |
| 2        | PAS-BS-211               | Brook Stickleback       | 27                                  | 3.9 - 5.5               | 28.2                          | 1.29      | 0.30                                  |
|          | PAS-BS-212               | Three-Spine Stickleback | 11                                  | 5.5 - 6.1               | 17.5                          | 4.21      | 0.46                                  |
|          | PAS-BS-310               | Brook Stickleback       | 10                                  | 4.2 - 5.0               | 11.2                          | 1.77      | 0.41                                  |
| 3        | PAS-BS-311               | Brook Stickleback       | 12                                  | 3.2 - 5.0               | 10.3                          | 2.56      | 0.66                                  |
|          | PAS-BS-312               | Brook Stickleback       | 8                                   | 4.4 - 5.3               | 10.4                          | 1.73      | 0.72                                  |
|          | PAS-BS-410               | Creek Chub              | 14                                  | 4.0 - 5.1               | 15.4                          | 6.88      | 0.95                                  |
| 4        | PAS-BS-411               | Creek Chub              | 7                                   | 5.0 - 5.9               | 13.0                          | 8.06      | 1.2                                   |
|          | PAS-BS-412               | Three-Spine Stickleback | 10                                  | 5.2 - 6.9               | 22.3_                         | 3.00      | 0.25                                  |
|          | PAS-BS-513               | Creek Chub              | 6                                   | 5.3 - 6.5               | 14.6                          | 6.27      | 0.70                                  |
| 5        | PAS-BS-514               | Creek Chub              | 8                                   | 7.4 - 8.4               | 50.5                          | 6.70      | 2.0                                   |
|          | PAS-BS-515               | Creek Chub              | 11                                  | 7.3 - 8.4               | 63.8                          | 7.34      | 1.3                                   |
|          | Arithmetic Mean 0.66     |                         |                                     |                         |                               |           |                                       |

- 1. Samples were collected by Blasland, Bouck & Lee, Inc. on May 29, 2003 (Locations 3, 4, and 5) and June 3, 2003 (Locations 1 and 2).
- 2. Samples were analyzed for PCBs using the USEPA SW-846 Method 8082 and for percent lipids using gravimetric techniques.
- 3. Total PCB concentrations represent total Aroclors.





# 2.3 Sediment Trap Sampling

As part of the annual PCB monitoring activities, sediment traps were placed at each of the five sediment sampling locations by BBL. The sediment traps consisted of pre-cleaned sample jars placed in stainless steel pans. The traps were monitored periodically by BBL for the collection of sediment deposition. Sediment samples from the traps were retrieved from all locations by BBL, and placed in the appropriate sampling jars for shipment to the laboratory, in accordance with the procedures identified in the Plan.

# 2.4 Biota Sampling

Electrofishing of White and Wine Creeks was conducted each year by BBL using a backpack electrofishing unit. The objective of the electrofishing, as identified in the Plan, was to collect three composite fish samples from each location. The target species were minnows (e.g., creek chubs, fathead minnows, bluntnose minnows) and/or sticklebacks.

Following collection, the appropriate target fish were placed in labeled Ziploc®-type bags, and stored on ice prior to sample processing. Sample processing included dividing the fish into three composite samples per location. Individual fish lengths, numbers of individuals per sample, and total sample weight were recorded. The samples were then wrapped and shipped to the analytical laboratory, in accordance with the procedures detailed in the Plan.

# 2.5 Laboratory Analyses

Laboratory analyses of sediments included PCBs and total organic carbon (TOC), in accordance with the requirements set forth in the Plan. The sediment and sediment trap samples were analyzed for PCBs using USEPA SW-846 Method 8082 (USEPA, 1986), as referenced in the current NYSDEC Analytical Services Protocol (ASP), and for TOC using USEPA Region 2's Lloyd Kahn Method (USEPA, 1988). The sediment analyses were performed by Galson Laboratories (East Syracuse, New York) in 1999 through 2001 and Buck Laboratories (Cortland, New York) in 2002 and 2003. In 2002, the USEPA approved the use of Buck Laboratories, which was necessitated by the fact that Galson Laboratories stopped performing environmental-related analytical services.

The biota samples were analyzed by EnChem Inc. (Green Bay, Wisconsin) for PCBs using USEPA SW-846 Method 8082, as referenced in the current NYSDEC ASP, and for percent lipids using standard gravimetric techniques.

### 3. Long-Term PCB Monitoring Results

The results of the first five years of the long-term PCB monitoring program, together with the relevant conclusions, were presented to the USEPA in the five *Annual Progress Reports* (BBL, 1999b; BBL, 2000; BBL, 2001b; BBL, 2003a; BBL, 2003b) submitted to date. The data presented in these reports are summarized below.

- Surficial sediment PCB concentrations in White and Wine Creeks were low (and typically not detected). Maximum PCB concentrations were 0.17 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) in 1999, 0.015 mg/kg in 2000, 1.8 mg/kg in 2001, 3.1 mg/kg in 2002, and 0.45 mg/kg in 2003. Table 1 and Figure 1 present these data.
- PCBs were detected in only one of the subsurface sediment samples at a concentration of 0.25 mg/kg
  (in the 3- to 6-inch interval from Location 4 in 2002). Table 2 and Figure 1 present these data. As
  noted above, in May 2001 the USEPA approved discontinuing the sampling and PCB analysis of

subsurface sediment from the long-term monitoring plan, as these data are not necessary to meet the requirements set forth in the OU4 ROD and Consent Decree.

- PCB concentrations were also typically low in the suspended sediment (trap) samples. Maximum PCB concentrations were 1.2 mg/kg in 1999, 1.1 mg/kg in 2000, 1.4 mg/kg in 2001, 0.96 mg/kg in 2002, and 0.32 mg/kg in 2003. Table 3 and Figure 1 present these data.
- PCBs were also detected in fish tissue samples collected during the first five annual rounds of the long-term monitoring program. Maximum PCB concentrations were 0.52 mg/kg in 1999, 3.9 mg/kg in 2000, 3.4 mg/kg in 2001, 1.7 mg/kg in 2002, and 2.0 mg/kg in 2003. Table 4 and Figure 2 present these data.

# 4. Evaluation of Long-Term PCB Monitoring Data

The data from all five years of the PCB long-term monitoring were reviewed (in combination with the historical data collected in 1989 through 1996) to evaluate the occurrence of PCBs in biota and sediment of White and Wine Creeks. Specific evaluations included an assessment of temporal trends in PCB concentrations, and an evaluation of potential ecological affects.

# 4.1 Surficial Sediment Data

The surficial sediment data indicate that PCBs are frequently not detected or present at relatively low concentrations. Because a large portion of the surficial sediment PCB data over the last five years have been non-detect, it is difficult to statistically evaluate temporal trends in these data. Table 1 presents the data for 1999 through 2003. Figure 1 shows the data for all five years of the long-term monitoring program by location. Figure 3 presents the sediment data grouped on an annual basis. Table 5 and Figure 4 present the surficial sediment data collected from 1989 to 1996.

PCBs have not been detected at upstream Location 1 during the five annual sampling rounds of the long-term monitoring program. In addition, PCBs were not detected in seven out of eight samples collected in 1989 through 1996 at upstream location SS-1. The single detection at this location was in 1996 at 0.074 mg/kg.

The PCB concentrations in sediment samples from Locations 2, 3, 4, and 5 are relatively low, and are less than those detected by ENVIRON in 1996. For example, for Location 2, the PCB concentration in the vicinity of this location during the Phase 2 SPRDS investigation in 1996 (Location White 11A) was 11 mg/kg, yet the highest concentration detected in the five years of the long-term monitoring data from this location was only 0.072 mg/kg (in 2003). Likewise, the maximum PCB concentration detected in surficial sediment samples collected from 1989 through 1996 from Location 3 (SS-3) was 3.7 mg/kg in May 1991, yet the highest concentration detected at this location during the long-term monitoring program was only 1.8 mg/kg (2001). Similarly, at Location 4 (White 12B), the highest PCB concentration in surficial sediments detected as part of the PCB long-term monitoring program is 3.1 mg/kg (in 2002) and 5.9 mg/kg was detected in 1995/1996; however; the total PCB concentration at this location in 2003 was significantly lower (0.45 mg/kg). In addition, the maximum PCB concentration in surficial sediment samples from Location 5 (SS-4A) between 1990 and 1996 was 1.4 mg/kg in 1991, yet PCBs were not detected at this location during the long-term monitoring program in 1999, 2000, and 2002, with concentrations of 0.034 mg/kg in 2001 and 0.21 mg/kg in 2003. In 2003, the duplicate sample had a PCB concentration of only an estimated 0.047 mg/kg.

### 4.2 Subsurface Sediment Data

The PCB data for the subsurface sediment samples are shown in Table 2 and on Figure 1. As mentioned previously, USEPA approved modifying the Plan on May 30, 2001 to discontinue subsurface sediment sampling. However, subsurface (3 to 6 inches) sediment samples were inadvertently collected at Locations 2, 4, and 5 in 2002 and submitted to the laboratory for PCB analysis. PCBs were not detected in the 2002 samples from Locations 2 and 5, and the sample from Location 4 had a total PCB concentration of 0.25 mg/kg. Collectively, these data demonstrate that subsurface PCB data are not necessary to meet the requirements set forth in the OU4 ROD and Consent Decree.

### 4.3 Sediment Trap Data

The sediment trap data indicate that PCBs, if present, are detected at relatively low concentrations. Table 3 presents the sediment trap data for 1999 through 2003. Figure 1 shows the data for all five years of the long-term monitoring program by location. Figure 3 presents the sediment data grouped on an annual basis. During each of the five monitoring events, PCBs have not been detected in the sediment trap samples collected from upstream Location 1. PCB concentrations at most locations are generally lower in 2003 compared to earlier years, and concentrations over 1 mg/kg have not been detected in the last two annual monitoring rounds.

A linear regression model was used to evaluate the sediment trap data. This type of evaluation involves fitting a straight line to a set of data points to measure the effect of a single independent variable (in this case, that variable is time). The coefficient of correlation of the data  $(R^2)$  is the measured impact of that variable (i.e., the proportion of the total variation of the PCB concentration that can be attributed to differences in time). The closer  $R^2$  is to 1.0, the stronger the relationship between the two variables. The regression model showed a significant decreasing trend in PCB concentrations for Location 3 (Figure 5). The  $R^2$  value for Location 3 ( $R^2 = 0.88$ ) confirms that PCB concentrations at this location have steadily decreased over time. Locations 2, 4, and 5 have relatively low PCB concentrations, and the  $R^2$  values did not show any significant trends (Figure 5).

# 4.4 Biota Data

PCB concentrations detected in the most recent (2003) biota samples are generally lower than the PCB concentrations detected during the three or four previous annual sampling rounds, with the exception of Location 5. Please note that in 1999 low-flow conditions in White Creek prevented the collection of fish samples at Locations 2, 3, and 4. PCB concentrations are generally lowest in the samples collected from the upstream location (Location 1). Table 4 presents the data for 1999 through 2003. Figure 2 shows the data for all five years of the long-term monitoring program by location. Figure 3 presents the biota data grouped on an annual basis.

The arithmetic mean PCB concentrations in fish have steadily declined from 2000 to 2003, with respective arithmetic means of 2.3 mg/kg, 2.0 mg/kg, 0.91 mg/kg, and 0.66 mg/kg, respectively. In addition, the arithmetic mean PCB concentration in fish in 1999 was 0.43 mg/kg. Maximum fish PCB concentrations were 0.52 mg/kg, 3.9 mg/kg, 3.4 mg/kg, 1.7 mg/kg, and 2.0 mg/kg for 1999 through 2003, respectively. Please note that in 1999 fish were only collected from Locations 1 and 5 due to low-flow conditions in White Creek.

A statistical tool known as one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to evaluate differences between the annual biota data sets for each location. Specifically, the one-way ANOVA was used to identify temporal trends in biota wet-weight PCB concentrations. First, the individual data sets were tested for normality using the Shapiro-Wilk normality test, which indicated that the biota data for

Locations 1, 2, 3, and 4 were normally distributed. For these locations, the Bonferroni comparison of means test was used to determine if the arithmetic means of the fish data were significantly different between years for each location (Table 6). According to this evaluation, arithmetic mean fish PCB concentrations at Locations 1, 2, 3, and 4 are significantly different between 2003 and earlier years. Linear regression models were also run for Locations 1 through 4 that confirmed the decreasing trends in fish PCB concentrations over time (Figure 6). Because the biota data for Location 5 were not normally distributed and attempts to normalize these data were unsuccessful, the Kruskal-Wallis nonparametric ANOVA was used to evaluate these data. Based on this evaluation, no significant differences in arithmetic mean fish PCB concentrations were observed at Location 5 between 2000 and 2003 (Table 6). An evaluation of lipid-normalized data showed similar results for all locations.

### 4.5 Evaluation of Potential Ecological Affects

One objective of the long-term monitoring program, as specified in the OU4 Consent Decree, is to periodically evaluate potential ecological risks. Previously, a quantitative evaluation of ecological risks was presented in Appendix B of the *Focused Feasibility Study* (ENVIRON, 1997). According to the food web model used in the ecological risk assessment, an assumed fish total PCB concentration of 1.0 mg/kg resulted in hazard quotients (HQs) of 0.82 for mink and 0.67 for green heron, and an assumed fish total PCB concentration of 2.0 mg/kg resulted in HQs of 1.70 for mink and 1.39 for green heron. From a risk perspective, HQ values less than 1 represent minimal ecological risk, HQ values between 1 and 10 are considered to represent a level of risk that potentially may be manifested as effects on some individual organisms, and HQ values greater than 10 may be indicative of potential risk at the population level.

Using the assumptions presented in the ENVIRON (1997) risk assessment, the maximum PCB concentrations detected in fish samples from 2000 (3.9 mg/kg) and 2001 (3.4 mg/kg) would result in HQ values of approximately 3 for mink and 2 for heron. The maximum fish PCB concentration from 2002 (1.7 mg/kg) would result in HQ values of approximately 1.5 for mink and 1.2 for heron, and the maximum fish PCB concentration from 2003 (2.0 mg/kg) would result in HQ values of 1.7 for mink and 1.39 for heron. Based on the arithmetic mean fish PCB concentrations from 2000 to 2003 (see Section 4.4 for values), HQs would have been slightly higher than 1 in 2000 and 2001, but less than 1 in 2002 and 2003, indicating that the potential for ecological risks has declined over time. As stated previously, HQ values less than 1 represent minimal ecological risk and HQ values between 1 and 10 are considered to represent a level of risk that potentially may be manifested as effects on some individual organisms. Consistent with USEPA's previous findings (USEPA, 1997; 1998b), these data confirm that associated risk levels are relatively low.

### 4.6 Summary

To date, five rounds of annual sampling have been conducted for the PCB long-term monitoring program for OU4 of the Site. As specified in the ROD, these data include surficial and subsurface sediment data, sediment trap, and biota data. Data collected thus far, in combination with the historical PCB data, indicate the following:

- PCBs have not been detected in the annual surficial sediment and sediment trap samples collected the past five years from the upstream location (Location 1).
- PCBs are frequently not detected in sediment samples (both surficial and subsurface) from White and Wine Creeks, and recently detected concentrations are lower than those detected as part of the 1996 Phase 2 SPRDS activities.
- PCBs have not been detected in sediment trap samples from upstream (Location 1). For other locations, sediment trap PCB concentrations are generally lower in 2003 compared to previous years.

The highest total PCB concentration detected in any of the sediment trap samples collected in 2003 was 0.32 mg/kg. As shown by a linear regression model, PCB concentrations in sediment trap samples from Location 3 have steadily decreased over the past five annual sampling rounds (1999 to 2003).

- Fish PCB concentrations are highest in samples from Locations 2, 3, and 4, but have declined steadily over the past four annual sampling rounds (2000 to 2003). Fish could not be collected from these locations in 1999 due to low-flow conditions. Based on an evaluation of temporal trends (one-way ANOVA), arithmetic mean fish PCB concentrations for Locations 1, 2, 3, and 4 are significantly lower in 2003 than 2000. The arithmetic mean PCB concentrations in fish have steadily declined from 2000 to 2003, with respective arithmetic means of 2.3 mg/kg, 2.0 mg/kg, 0.91 mg/kg, and 0.66 mg/kg, respectively.
- Based on the results of a previous site-specific ecological risk assessment (ENVIRON, 1997), current
  fish PCB concentrations in White and Wine Creeks do not represent a significant ecological risk.
  Based on the arithmetic mean PCB concentrations in fish from 2000 to 2003, HQ would have been
  slightly higher than 1 in 2000 and 2001, but less than 1 in 2002 and 2003, indicating that the potential
  for ecological risks has declined over time. These data confirm that associated risk levels are
  relatively low.

### 5. Recommendations

The long-term PCB monitoring data to date show that the no further action with long-term PCB monitoring remedy selected for OU4 is protective. No changes to the current monitoring program are recommended at this time. As specified in Paragraph 11 of the 1998 Consent Decree, the Settling Defendants shall continue to implement the PCB long-term monitoring plan until the USEPA, after consultation with the State of New York, notifies the Settling Defendants in writing that they may cease conducting such work. The annual sediment and biota monitoring event will continue to be conducted during the late spring/early summer (i.e., May through July), and will include collecting and analyzing surficial (0 to 3 inch) sediment deposits, suspended sediment (trap), and biota samples from the five specified locations in White and Wine Creeks.

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# Pollution Abatement Services Superfund Site Operable Unit 4 Oswego, New York Five-Year Data Review Report

# Surficial Sediment Sample Results for PCBs (1999 to 2003)

| Location | Sample         |          | Total             | PCB Concentra | itions (mg/kg)        | <b>以</b> 其其400000000000000000000000000000000000 |
|----------|----------------|----------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---|
| Location | Identification | 1999     | 2000              | 2001          | 2002                  | 2003  |
| 1        | PAS-SS-101     | ND(0.02) | ND(0.021)         | ND(0.022)     | ND(0.41)              | ND(0.044)                                       |
| 2        | PAS-SS-201     | ND(0.03) | 0.015 J [0.013 J] | 0.042 [0.047] | ND(0.052)             | 0.072   |
| 3        | PAS-SS-301     | ND(0.03) | ND(0.042)         | 1.8 D         | 0.50                  | 0.040 J   |
| 4        | PAS-SS-401     | 0.17 Ј   | 0.014 J           | 0.090         | 3.1 D                 | 0.45  |
| 5        | PAS-SS-501     | ND(0.03) | ND(0.024)         | 0.034         | ND(0.049) [ND(0.050)] | 0.21 J [0.047 J]                                |

- 1. All samples collected from the 0- to 3-inch interval.
- 2. D = The compound was analyzed at a secondary dilution.
- 3. J = The compound was positively identified; however, the associated numerical value is an estimated concentration only.
- 4. ND = Not detected. Each PCB Aroclor was not detected above the laboratory quantitation limit shown in parentheses.
- 5. Duplicate results in brackets.
- 6. Total PCB concentrations represent total Aroclors.

# Pollution Abatement Services Superfund Site Operable Unit 4 Oswego, New York Five-Year Data Review Report

# Subsurface Sediment Sample Results for PCBs (1999 to 2003)

|          | Sample         | Depth  | Total PCB           | Concentrations ( | mg/kg)    |
|----------|----------------|--------|---------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Location | Identification | (in)   | 1999                | 2000             | 2002      |
| 1        | PAS-SC-101     | 3 - 6  | ND(0.02)            | ND(0.021)        |           |
| 2        | PAS-SC-201     | 3 - 6  | ND(0.03)            | ND(0.024)        | ND(0.47)  |
| 2        | PAS-SC-301     | 3 - 6  | ND(0.03)            | NA               | 1         |
| 3        | PAS-SC-301     | 6 - 12 | ND(0.02)            | NA               | 1         |
| 4        | PAS-SC-401     | 3 - 6  | ND(0.02)            | ND(0.022)        | 0.25      |
| 4        | PAS-SC-401     | 6 - 12 | NA                  | ND(0.023)        | -         |
| 5        | PAS-SC-501     | 3 - 6  | ND(0.03) [ND(0.02)] | ND(0.023)        | ND(0.042) |
| 3        | PAS-SC-501     | 6 - 12 | ND(0.02)            | ND(0.021)        |           |

- 1. NA = Not available. Samples were not collected due to site conditions (limited depth of sediment).
- 2. ND = Not detected. Each PCB Aroclor was not detected above the laboratory quantitation limit shown in parentheses.
- 3. Duplicate results in brackets.
- 4. No subsurface sediment samples were collected in 2001 and 2003 because the USEPA approved discontinuing the sampling and analysis of subsurface sediment from the long-term monitoring program in 2001. Subsurface samples were inadvertently collected and analyzed in 2002.
- 5. Total PCB concentrations represent total Aroclors.

# Pollution Abatement Services Superfund Site Operable Unit 4 Oswego, New York Five-Year Data Review Report

# Sediment Trap Sample Results for PCBs (1999 to 2003)

|          | Sample         |           | Total PC    | B Concentration | is (mg/kg)  | Secretary - W |
|----------|----------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| Location | Identification | 1999      | 2000        | 2001            | 2002        | 2003          |
| 1        | PAS-ST-101     | ND(0.08)  | ND(0.033)   | ND(0.12)        | ND(0.15)    | ND(0.14)      |
| 2        | PAS-ST-201     | 0.53      | 0.25        | 0.30 [0.25]     | 0.81 [0.50] | 0.32          |
| 3        | PAS-ST-301     | 1.2 [1.2] | 0.62        | 0.42            | ND(0.17)    | 0.059 J       |
| 4        | PAS-ST-401     | 0.86      | 1.1         | 1.4             | 0.96        | 0.32 J        |
| 5        | PAS-ST-501     | 0.06      | 0.42 [0.48] | 0.081           | 0.19        | 0.25 J [0.33] |

- 1. ND = Not detected. Each PCB Aroclor was not detected above the laboratory quantitation limit shown in parentheses.
- 2. J = The compound was positively identified; however, the associated numerical value is an estimated concentration only.
- 3. Duplicate results in brackets.
- 4. Total PCB concentrations represent total Aroclors.

Table 4

# Pollution Abatement Services Superfund Site Operable Unit 4 Oswego, New York Five-Year Data Review Report

# Biota Sample Results for PCBs (1999 to 2003)

|                 |        | Total P | CB Concentrations | (mg/kg) |        |
|-----------------|--------|---------|-------------------|---------|--------|
| Location        | 1999   | 2000    | 2001              | 2002    | - 2003 |
|                 | 0.47 J | 1.5     | 1.7               | 0.52    | 0.098  |
| 1               | 0.43 J | 1.1     | 1.1               | 0.32    | 0.26   |
|                 | 0.47 J | 1.3     | 1.4               | 0.55    | 0.17   |
|                 | NA     | 3.3     | 2.4               | 0.87    | 0.39   |
| 2               | NA     | 2.8     | 2.2               | 1.3     | 0.30   |
|                 | NA     | 3.6     | 2.3               | 1.1     | 0.46   |
|                 | NA     | 3.0     | 2.4               | 0.94    | 0.41   |
| 3               | NA     | 3.0     | 2.8               | 0.84    | 0.66   |
|                 | NA     | 3.9     | 2.5               | 1.0     | 0.72   |
|                 | NA     | 3.0     | 2.5               | 0.93    | 0.95   |
| 4               | NA     | 3.3     | 3.4               | 1.2     | 1.2    |
|                 | NA     | 2.7     | 2.8               | 1.7     | 0.25   |
|                 | 0.52 J | 0.79    | 0.98              | 0.96    | 0.70   |
| 5               | 0.33 J | 0.72    | 0.74              | 0.67    | 2.0    |
|                 | 0.35   | 0.81    | 1.4               | 0.73    | 1.3    |
| Arithmetic Mean | 0.43   | 2.3     | 2.0               | 0.91    | 0.66   |

- 1. J = The compound was positively identified; however, the associated numerical value is an estimated concentration only.
- 2. NA = Not available. No samples were collected from these locations in 1999 due to low-flow conditions in White Creek.
- 3. Total PCB concentrations represent total Aroclors.

Table 5

# Pollution Abatement Services Superfund Site Operable Unit 4 Oswego, New York Five-Year Data Review Report

# Summary of Historical Total PCB Surficial Sediment Sample Concentrations (1989 to 1996)

| Date            | Location  | Total PCB Concentration (mg/kg) |
|-----------------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 11/89           | SS-1      | ND                              |
| 2 3.00          | SS-3      | ND                              |
| 11/90           | SS-1      | ND                              |
| 11/30           | SS-4A     | ND                              |
| 5/91            | SS-1      | ND                              |
| 3/51            | SS-3      | 3.7                             |
| 11/91           | SS-1      | ND                              |
| 11/91           | SS-3      | 1.9                             |
|                 | SS-4A     | 1.4                             |
| 11/92           | SS-1      | ND                              |
| 11/92           | SS-3      | 0.72                            |
|                 | SS-4A     | 0.72                            |
| 5/04            | SS-1      | ND                              |
| 5/94            |           |                                 |
|                 | SS-3      | 1.4                             |
|                 | SS-4A     | ND_                             |
| 11/94           | SS-1      | ND                              |
|                 | SS-3      | 0.74                            |
|                 | SS-4A     | 0.039                           |
| Phase 2 – SPRDS | White 7   | 0.161                           |
| (1995/1996)     | White 8   | ND(0.028)                       |
|                 | White 9A  | 0.095                           |
|                 | White 9B  | 0.014                           |
|                 | White 9C  | 0.043                           |
|                 | White 10_ | 0.035                           |
|                 | White 11A | 11.4                            |
|                 | White 11B | 0.052                           |
|                 | White 11C | 0.059                           |
|                 | White 12A | 1.69                            |
|                 | White 12B | 5.86                            |
|                 | White 12C | 0.052                           |
|                 | White 13A | 0.88                            |
|                 | White 13B | 0.74                            |
|                 | White 13C | 0.051                           |
|                 | White 13D | 0.26                            |
|                 | Wine 1A   | ND(0.029)                       |
|                 | Wine 1B   | 0.036                           |
|                 | Wine 1C   | 1.32                            |
|                 | Wine 2A   | 0.046                           |
|                 | Wine 2B   | 0.16                            |

See Notes on Page 2.

# Pollution Abatement Services Superfund Site Operable Unit 4 Oswego, New York Five-Year Data Review Report

# Summary of Historical Total PCB Surficial Sediment Sample Concentrations (1989 to 1996)

| Date  | Location | Total PCB Concentration (mg/kg) |
|-------|----------|---------------------------------|
| 11/96 | SS-1     | 0.074                           |
|       | SS-3     | 0.54                            |
|       | SS-4A    | 0.159                           |

- 1. Data obtained from the Focused Feasibility Study for PCB-Impacted Sediments in the Vicinity of the PAS Superfund Site, Oswego, New York (ENVIRON, 1997).
- 2. SPRDS = Supplemental Pre-Remedial Design Study.
- 3. ND = Not detected. Each PCB Aroclor was not detected above the laboratory quantitation limit shown in
- 4. Total PCB concentrations represent total Aroclors.

Table 6

# Pollution Abatement Services Superfund Site Operable Unit 4 Oswego, New York Five-Year Data Review Report

# Comparison of Arithmetic Mean PCB Concentrations in Resident Fish (2000 to 2003)

| Location | Year | Arithmetic Mean of Total PCB<br>Concentration (mg/kg) <sup>1</sup> |
|----------|------|--|
|          | 2000 | 1.3 (a)  |
| 1        | 2001 | 1.4 (a)  |
| 1        | 2002 | 0.46 (b)   |
|          | 2003 | 0.18 (b)   |
|          | 2000 | 3.2 (a)  |
| 2        | 2001 | 2.3 (b)  |
| 2        | 2002 | 1.1 (c)  |
|          | 2003 | 0.38 (d)   |
|          | 2000 | 3.3 (a)  |
| 3        | 2001 | 2.6 (a)  |
| 3        | 2002 | 0.93 (b)   |
|          | 2003 | 0.60 (b)   |
|          | 2000 | 3.0 (a)  |
| 4        | 2001 | 2.9 (a)  |
| 4        | 2002 | 1.3 (b)  |
|          | 2003 | 0.80 (b)   |
|          | 2000 | 0.77 (a)   |
| 5        | 2001 | 1.0 (a)  |
| 5        | 2002 | 0.79 (a)   |
|          | 2003 | 1.3 (a)  |

# Note:

1. A comparison of means test was used to evaluate statistically significant differences in mean concentrations between years for each sampling location. Means with the same letter(s) within the same location are not significantly different from one another. Conversely, means with different letters (i.e., do not share any of the same letters) within the same location are significantly different from one another.