New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

May 2014

FACT SHEET

State Superfund Program

Receive Site Fact Sheets by *Email.* See "For More Information" to Learn How.

Site Name: BICC Cables
DEC Site #: 360051
Address: 1 Point Street
Yonkers, NY 10701

Have questions? See "Who to Contact" Below

Remedy Proposed for State Superfund Site; Proposed Record of Decision Amendment Public Comment Period and Public Meeting Announced

Public Meeting, Tuesday, 5/20/2014 at 6:30 p.m.
Yonkers Riverside Branch Public Library, 1 Larkin Center, Yonkers
NYSDEC invites you to a public meeting to discuss the remedy proposed for the site. You are encouraged to provide comments at the meeting, and during the 30-day comment period described in this Fact sheet.

The public is invited to comment on a Proposed Remedy and Record of Decision Amendment by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) related to the BICC Cables site ("site") located at 1 Point Street, Yonkers, Westchester County. Please see the map for the site location.

Documents related to the cleanup of this site can be found at the location(s) identified below under "Where to Find Information."

How to Comment:

NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed plan and amendment for 30 days, from May 5, 2014 through June 4, 2014. The proposed plan and amendment are available for review at the location(s) identified below under "Where to Find Information." Please submit comments to the NYSDEC project manager listed under Project Related Questions in the "Who to Contact" area below.

The site is listed as a Class "2" site in the State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites (list of State Superfund sites). A Class 2 site represents a significant threat to public health or the environment; action is required. For the purposes of this remediation, the site has been divided into two operable units. An operable unit represents a portion of a remedial program for a site that for technical or administrative reasons can be addressed separately to investigate, eliminate or mitigate a release, threat of release or exposure pathway resulting from the site contamination.

Current Status:

A Record of Decision was issued for the site in March 2005 (the "March 2005 ROD") which included the remediation of the sediment beneath the EPRI Building by dredging.

NYSDEC is proposing to amend that ROD to create two operable units at the site. Operable Unit 1 (OU 1) includes upland soils, groundwater, and contaminated sediment in the Hudson River, excluding the sediment beneath the EPRI building. Operable Unit 2 (OU 2) includes only the sediment beneath the EPRI building; the new Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) is being issued for the OU2 EPRI building sediments.

Remedial Status:

All upland portions of the site and river sediments were remediated in conformance with the ROD except the sediments under the EPRI Building. Remediation included demolishing multiple buildings, excavating contaminated soil, backfilling with clean soil, capping the site, repairing or replacing older bulkheads, and dredging in the river not under the EPRI building. Several dredging techniques were attempted under the EPRI building including diver assisted hydraulic dredging, H&H water-based dredge, Pit Hog water-based dredge, Toyo pump, work boat based mini-excavator and Scan Crawler dredge. However, none were found to be implementable and cost-effective.

Proposed Remedial Action Plan for OU2

The proposed remedy for the site includes:

1. Engineered Multilayer Sediment Cover System: An Engineered Multilayer Sediment Cover System would be required to cap the Hudson River sediment contamination beneath the EPRI building. The cover would isolate these areas from uncontaminated sediment, the water column, and biota. It would be placed over all sediments that exceed the cleanup criteria that would have required dredging under the 2005 Record of Decision (ROD).

2. Remedial Design: A remedial design program for the construction, operation, optimization, maintenance, and monitoring of the remedial program would be implemented. The encapsulation system would be designed to withstand anticipated maximum wave energy anticipated by storm and hurricane events with river elevations as high as the 500 year flood elevation as well as impacts due to river, tidal, and wave-induced currents, ice flow, debris, and turbulence generated by ships/vessels.

3. USEPA Approval: The use of the Cover System to allow in-place management of the PCBs greater than 50 parts per million (ppm) must be approved by United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) prior to installation. If USEPA does not approve the use or design of the Engineered Multilayer Sediment Cover System, then the NYSDEC would re-evaluate this remedy decision. Green remediation principles and techniques would be implemented to the extent feasible in the design, implementation, and site management of the remedy.

4. Habitat Mitigation: The March 2005 Record of Decision (ROD) required restoration of the river environment following the removal of contaminated sediment. Because the Cover System would prevent the complete restoration of the aquatic habitat, mitigation to replace the loss of aquatic habitat beneath the EPRI Building is required. The mitigation would be detailed in a design plan which, at a minimum, would replace lost aquatic habitat and be consistent with State requirements.

5. Institutional Controls: Imposition of an environmental easement that would require the remedial party or site owner to complete and submit to the Department a periodic certification of continued and functioning institutional and engineering controls; would allow for the use and development of the controlled property for restricted residential, commercial and industrial uses, although land use is subject to local zoning laws; would restrict the use of groundwater as a source of potable or process water, without necessary water quality treatment as determined by the NYSDOH or County DOH; and would require compliance with the Department approved Site Management Plan.

6. Site Management Plan: This includes an Institutional and Engineering Control Plan to ensure the institutional and/or engineering controls remain in place and effective; Institutional Controls in the form of an Environmental Easement; Engineering Controls in the form of the asphalt, concrete or soil cover as required in the NYSDEC and USEPA decision documents; and a Monitoring Plan to assess the performance and effectiveness of the remedy.

Summary of the Investigation

During the Remedial Investigation the impacts of history site operations on sediment in the river were studied. The investigation began with identification of discharge points from the Site into the river. Sediment sampling locations in the river were then selected biased towards these discharge locations. These samples were collected adjacent to and beneath Site buildings and adjacent to the shore. In addition, to determine Site background sediment concentrations, sediment samples were also collected upriver of the Site.

The investigation revealed that the sediment exceeded the standards, criteria, and guidance (SCGs) values for PCBs, various polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and several inorganic constituents in both the surface and subsurface sediment samples.

NYSDEC developed the proposed remedy after reviewing the detailed investigation of the site and evaluating the remedial options in the “feasibility study” submitted under New York’s State Superfund Program by the responsible party.

Next Steps

NYSDEC will consider public comments as it finalizes the proposed ROD amendment and PRAP for OU2. The selected remedy will be described in a document called a "Record of Decision" that will explain why the remedy was selected and respond to public comments. A detailed design of the selected remedy will then be prepared, and further remediation will be performed.

NYSDEC will keep the public informed throughout the cleanup of the site.

Background

The BICC Cables site is located at 1 Point Street in Yonkers, Westchester County, in an urban industrial area adjacent to the Hudson River.

Site Features: The site is approximately 14 acres in area, which at one point contained 360,000 sq. ft. of warehouse and office structures. The Electric Research Power Institute (EPRI) Building, a 29,700 sq. ft. building constructed on piles over the Hudson River, is the only remaining structure associated with the site. The rest of the site is open or paved/unpaved lots and is predominantly flat with commercial properties on all sides. The site is primarily described as main areas: the North Yard, the South Yard, the Parking Lot and the Sediment areas within the Hudson River.

Current Zoning and Land Use: The site is currently inactive, and is zoned for industrial/commercial use. The surrounding parcels are currently used for a combination of commercial and industrial. The nearest residential area is approximately 100 feet to the east on Point Street and Ravine Avenue.

Past Use of the Site: The facility, in operation since 1886, manufactured high voltage cables until 1996. The property was expanded (into the Hudson River) using fill material from 1940 to 1976. On-site disposal of waste material, improper handling practices of products and chemicals and spillage are responsible for the PCB and metals contamination present at the site.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's website at:

http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfmx/extapps/derexternal/haz/details.cfm?pageid=3&progno=360051

State Superfund Program: New York's State Superfund Program (SSF) identifies and characterizes suspected inactive hazardous waste disposal sites. Sites that pose a significant threat to public health and/or the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

NYSDEC attempts to identify parties responsible for site contamination and require cleanup before committing State funds.
For more information about the SSF, visit: http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

Project documents are available at the following location(s) to help the public stay informed.

Yonkers Public Library
Riverfront Branch
1 Larking Center
Yonkers NY 10701
914-337-1500

NYSDEC, Region 3
21 S. Putt Corners Road
New Paltz NY 12561
(845)-256-3154
Please call for an appointment

Who to Contact

Comments and questions are always welcome and should be directed as follows:

Project Related Questions
Jeffrey Trad
Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7017
518-402-9814
jetrad@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Site-Related Health Questions
Anthony Perretta
New York State Department of Health
ESP Corning Tower
Albany, NY 12237
(518) 402-7860
BEEI@health.state.ny.us

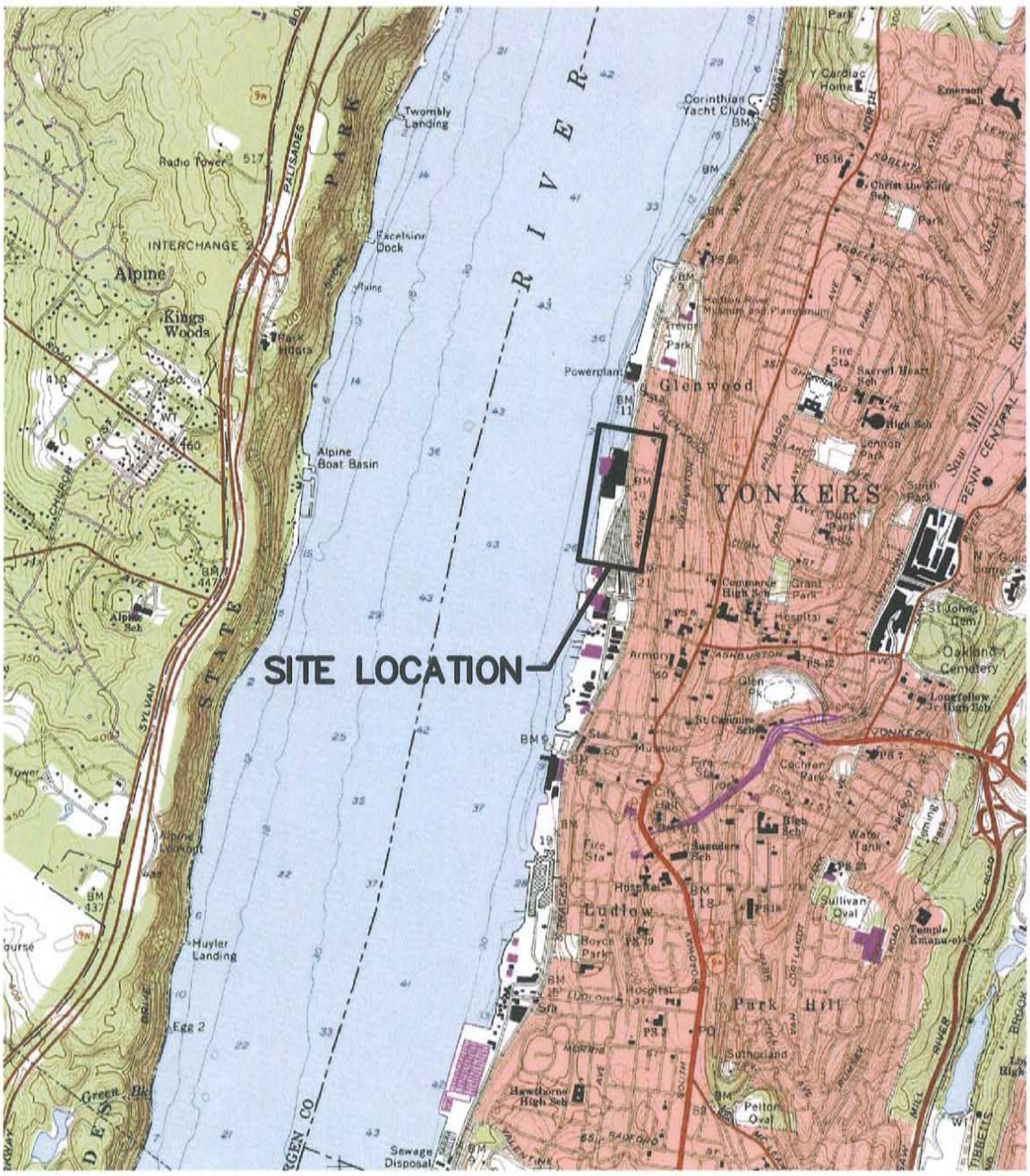
We encourage you to share this fact sheet with neighbors and tenants, and/or post this fact sheet in a prominent area of your building for others to see.

Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email

Have site information such as this fact sheet sent right to your email inbox. NYSDEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites county email listservs available at the following web page: http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html. It's quick, it's free, and it will help keep you *better informed*.

As a listserv member, you will periodically receive site-related information/announcements for all contaminated sites in the county(ies) you select.

Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.



N

Figure 1
Site Location Map
Former BICC Cables Site
Yonkers, New York

Reference:
USGS Quadrangle 7.5 minute
Yonkers, N.Y. - 1966 (Revised 1979)

Figure 2 - Operable Units
BICC Cables (Site #360051)