Hudson River PCBs SUPERFUND SITE
Region 2: NJ, NY, PR, VI • 290 Broadway, New York, NY 10007

Engineering Performance Standards
Dredging Productivity

May 2003

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Highlights: This fact sheet - one of four that have been developed to assist the public in the review of the draft engineering performance standards -- describes the objectives and intended use of the productivity standard for the Hudson River PCBs Superfund site. These standards have been released to the public for review and comment.

Development of Performance Standards

Engineering performance standards are technical requirements that help to ensure that the cleanup meets the objectives for protecting people's health and the environment established in the February 2002 Record of Decision (ROD) for the site. They were developed to make sure that dredging is done safely and stays on schedule. The ROD requires the development of performance standards for dredging-related resuspension, dredging residuals and dredging productivity. The standards will be used to measure the progress of the dredging and its effect on the river system.

Overview of Dredging Productivity

The dredging productivity standard is designed to maintain the pace of removing an estimated 2.65 million cubic yards of sediment to meet the six-year schedule for completing the dredging operation. It defines the amount of sediment to be dredged by the end of each project phase and dredging season. The standard also specifies minimum and target amounts of sediment to be removed, and requires the monitoring of monthly sediment removal goals.

The Productivity Standard: Keeping the Project on Schedule

The productivity standard is intended to keep the dredging work on schedule by defining the total volume of sediment to be dredged by the end of each dredging phase and within each dredging season. Maintaining an appropriate dredging production rate will allow the project to meet dredging goals within the six-year time frame and will limit the duration of construction-related impacts.

The productivity standard includes both minimum (required) and target dredging volumes, as shown in the table below. The minimum cumulative volume of sediment to be removed, processed and shipped off-site by the end of each dredging season is the quantity identified in the **Required Cumulative Volume** column. This is the amount required to complete the dredging within the six-year dredging schedule. The productivity standard further recommends that work be completed at a faster rate than required, so that a reduced volume remains in the sixth dredging season. The cumulative dredging volumes associated with the faster schedule are identified in the **Target Cumulative Volume** column. Achieving these target volumes will minimize or mitigate potential impacts to the project schedule.

Table 1: Productivity Requirements and Targets

Dredging Season	Required Cumulative Volume (cubic yards)	Target Cumulative Volume (cubic yards)
Phase 1 (Year 1)	Approx. 240,000	265,000
Phase 2 (Year 2)	720,000	795,000
Phase 2 (Year 3)	1,200,000	1,325,000
Phase 2 (Year 4)	1,680,000	1,855,000
Phase 2 (Year 5)	2,160,000	2,385,000
Phase 2 (Year 6)	2,650,000	2,650,000

The productivity standard requires the tracking and reporting of progress. Measurement of the productivity standard will be performed through record keeping and verified by EPA. By March of each year of the dredging program, a production schedule showing planned monthly production for the upcoming dredging season will be prepared. The scheduled sediment removal amounts must meet or exceed the requirements of the productivity standard. Monthly and annual productivity progress reports will be prepared. During the course of the dredging, the productivity will be monitored to ensure progress is being maintained. Progress will be gauged by use of action levels, which are summarized in the table below along with their associated required responses.

Table 2: Action Levels and Required Responses

Action Level	Description	Response
Concern Level	Monthly production rate falls 10% below scheduled rate.	Notify EPA and take immediate steps to erase shortfall in production over next two months.
Control Level	Production falls below scheduled production by 10% or more for two or more consecutive months.	Submit an action plan explaining the reasons for the lower production and describing the engineering and management actions taken or underway to increase production and erase shortfall by end of the dredging season.
Standard	Annual cumulative volume fails to meet required production requirements.	Action to be determined by USEPA.

Public Review

The draft engineering performance standards are subject to a 30-day public comment period beginning May 14 and ending June 13, 2003. A detailed description of the draft standards and supporting technical information can be found in the ***Draft Engineering Performance Standards - Public Review Copy***, which has been released for public review and comment. These documents and fact sheets on the performance standards are available at information repositories located in Glens Falls, Ft. Edward (Hudson River Field Office), Saratoga Springs, Albany, Poughkeepsie, and New York City. Electronic versions can be found on the EPA project Web site. Copies are also available in print and on CD-ROM, by calling the Hudson River Field Office.

The public can submit comments electronically during the public comment period via EPA's Web site at *www.epa.gov/hudson*. A special database has been established to streamline the comment process. To enhance access to this Web-based tool, EPA will make laptop computers available at public sessions and will continue to provide public access to a computer at EPA's Hudson River Field Office. Comments may also be submitted in writing. Written comments should be sent to **Alison A. Hess, EPA Region 2, 290 Broadway, New York, New York 10007-1866**.

Public Education Sessions

EPA will host two sets of public sessions on the draft engineering performance standards. The first set, designed to provide an overview of the engineering performance standards, will be held on May 21 and 22, 2003:

Wednesday, May 21
Ft. Edward Fire House
116 Broadway, Fort Edward, NY
6:00 - 9:00 pm,
Presentation at 6:30 pm

Thursday, May 22
Best Western Hotel
2170 South Road
Poughkeepsie, NY
6:00 - 9:00 pm,
Presentation at 6:30 pm

Public Forums

The second set of sessions will be forums designed to present the draft engineering performance standards for public review and comment. They will be held on June 2 and 3, 2003:

Monday, June 2
Queensbury Hotel
88 Ridge Street
Glens Falls, NY
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm/6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Presentations at 2:30 pm and 6:30 pm

Tuesday, June 3
Sage College of Albany, Kahl Center
140 New Scotland Avenue
Albany, NY
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm/6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Presentations at 2:30 pm and 6:30 pm

For More Information

Visit, call, or write to the Hudson River Field Office at the address below or log on to **www.epa.gov/hudson.**

EPA Contacts

Leo Rosales,
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421 Lower Main Street
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The Field Office hours are Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, with evening hours by appointment.

David Kluesner,
Community Involvement Coordinator

EPA Region 2 Office
290 Broadway
New York, NY 10007
(212) 637-3653

EPA Superfund Ombudsman
EPA Region 2 has designated an ombudsman as a point-of-contact for community concerns and questions about the federal Superfund program in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. To support this effort, the Agency has established a 24-hour, toll-free number that the public can call to request information, express concerns, or register complaints about Superfund. The ombudsman for EPA's Region 2 office is: George H. Zachos, U.S. EPA, Region 2, 2890 Woodbridge Avenue MS-211, Edison, New Jersey 08837, (732) 321-6621,Toll-free (888) 283-7626.