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

Engineering Performance Standards

Dredging Residuals

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 residuals 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 Residuals

The performance standard for dredging residuals will be used to measure whether the objectives for residual PCB concentrations established in the ROD have been achieved. Sediment samples will be collected and analyzed for PCBs after dredging is completed in a given area. The results will then be compared with cleanup goals and other criteria. If PCB contamination is found at unacceptable levels, appropriate action, such as capping or redredging, will be required.

Objective of the Standard: Managing What Dredging Leaves Behind

The residuals standard is designed to detect and manage small amounts of contaminated sediments that may remain on the river bottom after dredging in the Upper Hudson. These residuals may consist of contaminated sediments that were disturbed but escaped capture by the dredge, resuspended sediments that were redeposited or that settled, and/or contaminated sediments remaining below the dredging cut lines because they were not detected by the sediment sampling program.

The residuals standard first requires post-dredging sampling and analysis to detect and characterize PCB concentrations in the residual sediments. The level of PCBs in the sediment samples is then evaluated against a level of approximately 1 part per million (ppm) - the cleanup objective for the sediment - and a series of statistical action levels. Depending on the sampling results, the appropriate management approach to the residual sediments, such as capping or redredging, will be selected from a predetermined menu to achieve the cleanup goals while maintaining dredging productivity.

The standard calls for the identification of and testing in a "certification unit" within a dredged area. Certification units are expected to be about five acres in size. In each certification unit, 40 sediment cores will be collected immediately after the dredge operator has reached the designed cut-lines. Each core sample will then be analyzed for PCB concentrations and the results will be compared with the action levels in the residuals standard to determine what action must be taken. Lower concentrations in the sediment might call for actions such as backfilling, where appropriate, and demobilization. Higher concentrations would call for actions such as redredging, constructing a cap, or additional sampling and redredging.

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,
Community Involvement Coordinator
Hudson River Field Office
421 Lower Main Street
Hudson Falls, NY 12839
(518) 747-4389 or (866) 615-6490 Toll-Free
hrfo@capital.net

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.

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