

Community Advisory Group (CAG)
Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site
Meeting Summary
Thursday April 28, 2011
1:00 – 2:30PM
Saratoga Springs, NY

Members and Alternates Attending: David Adams, Phil Dobie, Manna Jo Greene, Jane Havens, Richard Kidwell, Bill Koebbeman, Roland Mann, David Mathis, Althea Mullarkey, Tom Richardson, Lois Squire, Julie Stokes, Rebecca Troutman.

CAG Liaisons Attending: Danielle Adams (Ecology & Environment), Kevin Farrar (NYSDEC), John Fazzolari (Ecology & Environment), Joan Gerhardt (Behan Communication for GE), David King (USEPA), Gary Klawinski (USEPA), Deepali McCloe (Ecology & Environment), Joe Moloughney (NYSCC), Deanna Ripstein (NYSDOH), Larisa Romanowski (USEPA), Charles Sullivan (NPS).

Others Attending: Johan Bladel (Great Lakes Dredge and Dock), Bill Campbell (CDMC), Nathan Carlton (Applied Ecological Services), Thais Dembrowski, Melanie Finkle, Robert Gibson (General Electric), Tim Kruppenbacher (GE), Jimmy Magliure (NMS A6), Mark Peckham (NYSHPO), Philip Perazio (NYSHPO), John Vetter (USEPA).

Facilitators: Ona Ferguson, Meredith Sciarrio.

Members Absent: Cecil Corbin-Mark, Darlene DeVoe, Rich Elder, Mark Fitzsimmons, Richard Fuller, Robert Goldman, Robert Goldstein, Gil Hawkins, Christine Hoffer, Ed Kinowski, Aaron Mair, Bill Peck, Merrillyn Pulver-Mouthrop, Sharon Ruggi.

Next meeting: The next CAG meeting has been scheduled for June 30 at the Fort Edward Fire Hall.

Action Items:

- Facilitators – Circulate notes from the Navigational Dredging pre-meeting to the CAG.
- Facilitators – Continue to reach out to agency heads with an invitation from the CAG.
- Larisa Romanowski – Report back on TAG and TASC questions from today's meeting.

Welcome, Introductions, Review February Meeting Summary

The facilitator welcomed everyone to the meeting. The draft February meeting summary was approved with no changes. All CAG meeting handouts and presentation slides are available within one week of CAG meetings at: <http://www.hudsoncag.ene.com/documents.htm>.

General Electric's Dredge Project Update

Tim Kruppenbacher, Project Manager for GE, gave an overview of the dredging project for 2011. His slides can be seen at <http://www.hudsoncag.ene.com/documents.htm>. The primary points from Tim's presentation included:

Timing, Scope and Mobilization – In 2011, GE is planning to dredge from May to November on a 24/6 work schedule. GE is targeting a dredging area of 350,000 cubic yds (cy) from the Rt. 197 bridge to the Rt. 4 General Support Property. Some activities are on hold due to current high river flow/flooding. These activities include NYSCC opening of the lock and canal system, installing docks at the work support

marina, pre-dredge survey, and moving 17 barges to river moorings. GE has had to remove all equipment from the river, but is ready to mobilize from several areas on the river once flow and water levels subside.

Contracting and Technical Documents – GE is currently working to get contracts in place. The Disposal and Rail, Monitoring Services, and Habitat Reconstruction contracts are almost complete. The final Remedial Action Work Plan and Remedial Action Health and Safety Plan will be submitted next week.

Processing Facility Improvements – GE has made improvements at the processing facility this spring. The facility now has a modified trommel feed system, modified system for moving barges along the wharf, additional barge pump-out and clean-out stations, and modified fender system at the wharf.

Ongoing Activities – Ongoing activities include: construction of support facilities, mobilizing equipment, assembling platforms and excavators (at Rt. 4 Property), and reassembly of pipes, pumps, and tanks at the processing facility (these had been disassembled so they didn't freeze in the winter).

Anticipated Schedule – The plan is to begin dredging in May and replanting in Phase 1 areas. Taking into account current flooding conditions, GE will be able to begin dredging 2-3 weeks after NYSCC opens the canals. Approximately 1.5 months after dredging begins, shipments will be sent to disposal sites. GE plans to complete dredging in October and wants to remove equipment from the river by November 15, which coincides with the closing of the canals system. In December, GE will start winter operations at the dewatering facility, which include processing rainwater.

CAG members discussed the following topics in response to GE's presentation:

- *Changes from Phase 1* – A CAG member inquired about changes were made in comparison to Phase 1. GE has made some changes in their suppliers, process and equipment, as described in previous meetings and as agreed to in December.
- *Pre-Dredging Survey* – GE is developing a contour map of the bottom of the river to compare with the dredge prism for each dredge cut. GE has pre- and post- Phase 1 surveys. Pre-dredging surveys can show changes due to erosion, flooding, and other sediment movement. These surveys will be given to the dredge contractors for their use in 2011. By the end of 2010, GE had over 400 new core samples and reviewed the data to assist in refining the depth of cut and elevation of contamination used to plan 2011 dredging, in combination with previous data. Per Bob Gibson, while previously half of the core samples were low confidence, now over 90 percent are high confidence due to use of additional vibrocore and sonic drilling methods. GE will be submitting a 2012 sampling workplan to EPA shortly. Per John Vetter, the small size of artifacts does not lend itself to be recovered in core samples and they do not expect to find them in future samples.

Volatilization – A CAG member inquired about the possibility of air exceedances on barges in hot weather. Per Tim Kruppenbacher, GE is planning to spray water over the sediments on the barges to minimize volatilization, and plans to move them through the unloading process quickly, with unloading 24hrs a day, so barges are not left full and do not sit overnight. GE is adopting a new electronic barge prioritization system for tracking barges which will enable staff to prioritize barges with hotter material for unloading, and will have wharf logistic managers track barge locations and order.

Overview of Technical Assistance Opportunities (TAG/TASC)

Larisa Romanowski, USEPA, gave an overview of Technical Assistance Opportunities. Her slides can be seen at <http://www.hudsoncag.ene.com/documents.htm>. EPA provides assistance to communities through

various technical assistance resources such as the Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) and the Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC).

The TAG provides \$50,000 to community groups near Superfund sites to support technical advisors who can help interpret technical reports, site conditions and EPA clean-up proposals. One TAG can be issued at a time per Superfund site. A community group can qualify for a TAG if its members live near or are affected by a Superfund site, if it is representative of the affected community and if it is nonprofit and incorporated. A group can apply for a TAG by submitting a letter of intent to EPA's Region 2 office. The application process takes approximately six months, during which time EPA informs the rest of the community so others can join the group or can separately write their own letter of intent. Once awarded, TAG funds can be used to hire independent technical advisors, pay grant administrators, purchase office supplies, and print newsletters or fact sheets about the site. The TAG recipient must keep accurate records of how funds are used, seek EPA reimbursement to pay technical advisors, and prepare and distribute progress reports to EPA. Clearwater currently has a TAG grant for this Superfund site.

The TASC is an EPA-sponsored program which supplies services through E² Inc. rather than awarding funds to a non-profit directly. The TASC is more flexible than the TAG as it can be used for communities near Superfund sites or near other types of hazardous waste clean-up sites. Many services can be provided under TASC, including training community leaders on hazardous waste issues, translating educational, outreach, and technical documents into other languages, and meeting with the community to answer questions and listen to concerns. To apply for a TASC, a community would submit a written request for assistance to an EPA region. Once awarded, the community would be responsible for participating and attending meetings with the contractor, providing site background and information on current issues, helping establish project deadlines, and reviewing contractor deliverables. The TASC is potentially available to CAG members. CAG members asked whether TASC could fund reviews of the economic impacts of the project, depth of contamination estimates, resuspension, DNAPL (PCB oil) questions, and floodplains issues. Larisa responded that she'd look into this and get back to the group.

Brief Updates

Agency Outreach

- Ona Ferguson gave an update of follow up to the CAG's invitation to agency leadership to attend CAG meetings. Two staff members from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), within the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, attended today's meeting in response to the CAG's invitation: Mark Peckham and Philip Perazio. DEC Commissioner Joe Martens, EPA Region 2 Administrator Judith Enck and NYCC Director Brian Stratton have indicated interest in attending a future CAG meeting pending their availability. DOH and DEC have indicated that they are committed to the CAG through their regular representation at meetings (Deanna Ripstein for DOH and Kevin Farrar for DEC), and that they trust their representatives to let them know if or when there is a particular need for participation higher up within either agency.

Report out from Navigational Dredging Pre-meeting

- Althea Mullarkey reported on the pre-meeting held before the full CAG meeting about Navigational Dredging. Joe Mologhney of NYSCC presented data on the history of and requirement for NYSCC to dredge the shipping channel in the Hudson River. Meeting participants discussed ways to advance this issue, supporting efforts by the NYSCC and others to get the channel dredged to the necessary 12' while the GE dredging project is going on in the interest of efficiency (while the dewatering facility and system is in place for dredging contaminated materials). Several participants indicated interest in better understanding the

economic impact to the region of not having a shipping channel of adequate depth. Some noted that they'd like to work more on this topic together separate from CAG meetings.

CAG Business

CAG Meeting Date – The next CAG meeting is scheduled for June 30 at the Fort Edward Fire Hall.

Future CAG Meeting Topics – CAG members and others suggested the following agenda topics for future meetings:

- Dredging Project Update
- Natural Resource Damages pre-meeting
- Hudson Falls Plan Update
- Review of Progress on Habitat Restoration
- Remedial Action Workplan Overview
- Update on Air Quality Monitoring
- Update on improved EPA Website

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.