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Residents, officials discuss PCB dredging standards
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By Dan Shapley
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A group of upper-Hudson River residents and elected officials met with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Monday to weigh in on the issue of performance standards for the PCB dredging project.

The EPA has indicated it could make performance standards -- which would measure how effective its estimated \$460 million dredging project is -- a part of the record of decision, due in the next few weeks.

The project is intended to remove about 100,000 pounds of PCBS, or polychlorinated biphenyls, from the river. The PCBs were discharged by General Electric Co. and are suspected of causing cancer and other health problems.

Environmentalists also met recently with the EPA. They support dredging, but don't want performance standards at this stage. They argue the standards regarding the stirring up of PCBs could be so strict as to make dredging unfeasible.

Group opposes dredging

The up-river group CEASE, or Citizen Environmentalists Against Sludge Encapsulation, opposes dredging and supports the performance standards.

"These standards must be crystal clear, measurable guidelines that will spell out protections for our towns and villages," said Merrilyn Pulver, supervisor of the Town of Fort Edward.

GE, which has long opposed the dredging it would have to pay for, also has met recently with the EPA, and has said performance standards would be appropriate.