



**United States  
Environmental Protection Agency**  
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# NEWS

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**EPA ANNOUNCES IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY INTERACTION PROGRAM FOR  
THE HUDSON RIVER PCB REASSESSMENT STUDY**

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NEW YORK, NEW YORK -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 2, has announced that it is proceeding with its Community Interaction Program pertaining to the reassessment study being conducted for the Hudson River PCB Superfund site. A series of four meetings comprised of four separate liaison groups (governmental, environmental, citizen, and agricultural) will be held in Saratoga Springs, New York, from Monday, February 11, 1991 through Thursday, February 14. Each liaison group meeting will run from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m., and will be located at the Inn at Saratoga, 231 Broadway in Saratoga Springs. The schedule for the liaison groups is as follows:

Monday, February 11	Governmental Liaison Group
Tuesday, February 12	Environmental Liaison Group
Wednesday, February 13	Citizen Liaison Group
Thursday, February 14	Agricultural Liaison Group

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EPA has sent out over 500 letters inviting participation in this program to a wide spectrum of the public who may have an interest in the Hudson River PCB issue, and welcomes participation from individuals who may not be on our mailing list. This initial group of meetings will be the first in a series of such meetings to be held up and down the Hudson River as the project progresses.

The specific objectives of EPA's Community Interaction Program for the Hudson River PCB Reassessment Project are to enter into a dialogue and exchange of information with the public on the Hudson River PCB issue, provide information to the public about the nature of activities which will occur at the Hudson River PCB site, provide the public with regular progress reports, and provide timely and accurate responses to questions and issues raised by the public.

Each liaison group will be self-governing, electing its own representatives and setting its own agenda and meeting schedules. Representatives from each group will sit on a Steering Committee which will interact directly with the Hudson River Oversight Committee (comprised of both federal and state agency representatives conversant in the PCB issue as well as members from the private sector). The Hudson River Oversight Committee will identify significant issues and provide appropriate recommendations to the Regional Administrator based upon the input of the Liaison Groups and the Scientific and Technical Committee.

### Site Background

During a 30-year period ending in 1977, it is estimated that approximately 1.1 million pounds of PCBs were discharged into the Hudson River from two General Electric Company (GE) capacitor manufacturing plants located in Fort Edward and Hudson Falls, New York. The deteriorating Fort Edward Dam was removed in 1973, which consequently allowed PCB-contaminated sediments that had accumulated behind the dam to be transported downstream. Subsequent sediment surveys revealed that the most extensive contamination was located in 40 "hot spots" situated in a 40-mile stretch of the river between Fort Edward and Troy.

In 1976, the NYSDEC banned all fishing in the upper Hudson River, from the Troy dam north through Fort Edward, because PCB levels in Hudson River fish were in excess of FDA limitations. The ban is still in effect today. In 1978 and 1979 some highly contaminated sediments were removed from one of the remnant deposits and were placed in a secure encapsulation facility in the Town of Moreau, along with some sediment dredged from just below the old Fort Edward Dam.

In September 1980, one of the amendments to the Clean Water Act entitled, "The Hudson River PCB Reclamation Demonstration Project", provided construction grant funds for the demonstration of technologies, particularly dredging, that would clean up the contamination without causing further PCB migration and pollution. Congress authorized EPA to make grants to the NYSDEC in order to carry out the intent of the amendment. In 1983, it was determined that the problem rated high enough to be considered for inclusion on the newly-created Superfund National Priorities List (NPL).

In September, 1984, a Record of Decision (ROD) was signed by EPA for the Hudson River PCB site, addressing the remnant deposits and the river sediments. EPA's decision was interim in-place containment, or capping, of four of the remnant deposits, stabilization of the associated riverbanks and revegetation of the areas. This action is currently being implemented by General Electric pursuant to a consent decree with EPA.

The ROD selected an interim "no-action" alternative for the river sediments. In December 1989, at the request of NYSDEC, the EPA announced it would reassess its 1984 "no-action" decision based on advances in treatment technologies, a preference for permanent remedies, and the Superfund provision requiring a five-year review for all sites where contaminants remain on site.

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