NAVAL STATION NEWPORT

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)

MEETING MINUTES

January 16, 2002

Naval Station Newport
Environmental Protection Department (N8N)
Building 1 CC
One Simonpietri Drive
Newport, RI 02841

January 31, 2002

Dear RAB Member and interested parties:

Enclosed is a copy of the minutes of the January 16, 2002, Naval Station Newport Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting.

The minutes are also available to you electronically, both on the world wide web and via email. The Naval Station Newport web site provides information about the Restoration Advisory Board, including copies of the current and past meeting minutes. Visit http://www.nsnpt.navy.mil/Code40/40E/rab2/index.html on the world wide web. Please contact us if you wish to have the meeting minutes sent directly to you via email.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Krantz
RAB Secretary

email: griffinm@nsnpt.navy.mil
Telephone: (401) 841-3735
FAX: (401) 841-7071

NAVAL STATION NEWPORT
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)
Meeting Minutes - January 16, 2001

On Wednesday, January 16, 2002, the NAVSTA Newport Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) met at the Officers' Club for its monthly meeting. The meeting began at 7:05 pm and ended at 9:05 pm.

A pre-meeting educational seminar was held from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Mr. Tim Lynch of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) Fish and Wildlife presented a very informative history of fish populations in Narragansett Bay.

Attending the business meeting were:

Dr. Kathy Abbass RAB
Ms. Pam Harting-Barrat USEPA
Mr. Todd Bober EFANE
Mr. David Dorocz NAVSTA
Ms. Melissa Griffin NAVSTA
Ms. Shanna Jennison RAB
Mr. Greg Kohlweiss NAVSTA
Mr. Paul Kulpa RIDEM
Ms. Judy Lamey TetraTech NUS
Mr. Thomas McGrath RAB
Mr. James Myers RAB
Mr. Howard Porter RAB
Mr. John Vitkevich RAB
CDR D. Burnes NAVSTA
Ms. Mary A. Blake RAB
Mr. David Brown RAB
Mr. Thurston Gray RAB
Ms. Susan Hester RAB
Ms. Kymberlee Keckler USEPA
Mr. Tom Krantz NAVSTA
Mr. Eugene Love RAB
Mr. Manuel Marques RAB
Mr. Ed Moitoza RAB
Mr. Steve Parker TetraTech NUS,
Mr. Emmett Turley RAB
Ms. Claudette Weissinger RAB

Copies of the following material were provided during the meeting and are enclosed with these minutes.

- Meeting Agenda (Enclosure 1)
- Environmental Geographical Information System (EGIS) examples (Enclosure 2)
- RAB Teamwork Ground Rules (Enclosure 3)
- Hudson River Dredging (Enclosure 4)

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Dorocz asked for any comments or questions about the November minutes. Comments: Page 7 has "R20,000" where it should be "R20". Page 6 the word "mobil" is misspelled it should be "mobile". Mr. Dorocz said that we have other typos identified. Another comment about the minutes was that distributing

the minutes by email is a great asset. There was a request to have the meeting agenda emailed before the meeting. The RAB secretary agreed to email the agenda. The minutes were approved.

ACTIVITY UPDATE

- Site Status - Mr. Todd Bober represented EFA Northeast at the meeting. David Dorocz said that activities at the IR sites had not changed and received agreement to postpone Mr. Bober's presentation until the end of the RAB meeting, if time allowed.

- Environmental Geographic Information System (EGIS) - Steve Parker and Ms. Judy Lamey of Tetra Tech NUS, an environmental contractor to the Navy, presented an update on the Environmental Geographic Information System (EGIS). The EGIS system was initially presented to the RAB almost two years ago, at that time changes to the system were discussed. This presentation shows the updated status of the system which now has incorporated the changes.

EGIS is a powerful interactive computerized graphics system used to help present and evaluate environmental information. The system is based upon a commercial software product, Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. ArcView Geographical Information System. Data in the system was collected, over the years, by Tetra Tech NUS and other companies. Other information in EGIS was provided by the Rhode Island Geographical Information System (RIGIS). Other sources include images from airplane flyovers and the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Most of the accurate shoreline information uses the digital ortho-quarter plots. Tetra Tech NUS placed the information into a database that is accessed by the Environmental Geographic Information System.

Mr. Todd Bober added that EGIS is used at almost all the other Navy bases and that it is an effective tool allowing data in many different formats to be accumulated and accessed.

Tetra Tech NUS demonstrated the EGIS software running on a laptop computer connected to a projector. They provided several examples of using the EGIS to show information and to extract data from the database and export it to an Excel spread sheet. Representative examples are in Enclosure 2

The RAB discussed how to make this information available to the public. There are technology issues in making the computer systems and software available to the public libraries and there are other technology issues in making the application accessible on the web. Dr. Abbass raised the issue of data security on the web and the current impact caused by the closing of the National Park Service website due to a court order because the Department of the Interior web site had been hacked. Mr. Todd Bober also spoke of making the information available on CD ROMs by request. Mr. Paul Kulpa said that Rhode Island has a GIS web page available that is associated with the RIGIS website.

There were questions about old data and it's continued inclusion in the database. The suggestion was that all data be included since a date is associated with the data and the operator can instruct the software to sort and select data by desired dates. Another suggestion was to include a fact sheet about each site that includes a summary of the work completed at the site. The fact sheets have been revised and will be incorporated into the next EGIS release.

Mr. Love raised a concern that people may erroneously interpret the detailed and sophisticated environmental information when it is placed on the internet. Mr. Dorocz said that all the information is already available to the public as part of the public record in the libraries. Mr. Brown added his support that the information should be made available on the web. Ms. Keckler added that one could place the information on the web and make names available of people that can help interpret the data. Mr. Vitkevich asked what the current timeline is for placing this on the web, the response was there is no timeline, the idea is only under consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

- Election Of Community Co-Chair

Mr. Tom McGrath opened the topic. At the last meeting the Community Co-Chair, Ms. Barrow, resigned. At that meeting Mr. John Vitkevich was nominated for Community Co-Chair. People were invited by a statement in the minutes to contact Mr. McGrath with other nominations, no one contacted him. He asked for additional nominations at the meeting, none were offered. Nominations were closed, a vote was taken and John Vitkevich was elected Community Co-Chair. There was one vote opposed and all others were in favor.

Mr. Vitkevich thanked the organization. He then spoke of Mr. Richard Coogan being in the hospital. He circulated a get well card for Mr. Coogan and invited everyone to sign. He then shared a document that he received from Mr. David Brown, "RAB TEAMWORK GROUND RULES". (Enclosure 3). Mr. John Vitkevich praised the document as the best document he has seen for the RAB. Dr. Abbass said that the paper was provided years ago by a consultant.

Mr. John Vitkevich said "I hope to serve the RAB as the Community Co-Chair in making this the best RAB." Mr. John Vitkevich said he will be going to other RABs to see how they function. John said he would like to focus on increasing everyone's involvement in the RAB.

Mr. John Vitkevich said he was unable to contact the two people that have not yet signed the RAB mission statement; Ms. Elizabeth Mathinos and Mr. John Bernardo. Mr. Brown said that he had talked with Ms. Mathinos and learned that she submitted her resignation last summer. Mr. John Vitkevich suggested we obtain the signatures from both parties to make the RAB charter official and then we accept their resignations.

The group discussed the attendance of members and the procedure for removing RAB members for not attending the meetings. The charter states (paragraph 2.2.c) "*If a member accumulates more than two consecutive absences without notifying either RAB co-chair (NAVSTA co-chair, Community co-chair), the RAB co-chairs may ask the member to resign.*" Mr. Krantz provided RAB member attendance information for the year 2001 which showed that two members, Ms. Mathinos and Mr. Bernardo, each had not attended any meetings in the year. Mr. John Vitkevich said he would first focus on having a complete and fully participating RAB membership.

- RAB member training package - Dr. Abbass combined the education committee report with the RAB member training package report. She said she had received one comment about the training package. Dr. Abbass will now start the first draft based upon the outline. She invited members to provide additional comments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Project Committee – Mr. Emmet Turley reported that the Hudson River has PCB contamination from the General Electric Company. The remediation includes dredging. As demand for dredging increases in local waters, we will encounter similar problems as experienced in the Hudson River. Mr. Turley provided copies of relevant dredging documents (Enclosure 4) for the RAB to review.

- Membership Committee – Mr. Howard Porter asked that a letter be sent to the RAB community members to confirm their membership in the RAB. Mr. Dorocz suggested that the letter should come from the Community Co-Chair. Mr. John Vitkevich said he would prepare a letter.

- Public Information Committee – Mr. Love reported that he has a meeting scheduled with Mr. Tom Krantz and Ms. Melissa Griffin about the newsletter and distribution lists. Ms. Harting-Barrat asked about the scope of the newsletters distribution. Ms. Griffin responded that last time we had a distribution list of about 500 people. Mr. Dorocz explained that we are instructed to contact people who's property abuts the base and that the RAB is not funded to do community outreach.

- Planning Committee – Mr. Tom McGrath said that the Planning Committee had a meeting a few nights prior. Next month there will not be a pre-meeting the regular meeting agenda will include eel grass. The following month will focus on the Old Fire Fighting Training Area (OFFTA). The committee talked about strategic planning. Mr. John Vitkevich spoke of an association of alliance managers that may be a source of information. Mr. Dorocz expressed his support for strategic planning. Mr. Ed Moitoza will administer the planning committee while Mr. Tom McGrath is away.

ADJOURNMENT - The RAB meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm. The next RAB meeting will be February 20, 2002 at 7:00 pm at the Naval Station Newport Officers' Club. There will not be a pre-meeting.

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)

MEETING AGENDA

January 16, 2002

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVE PREVIOUS MINUTES

ACTIVITY UPDATE

- **Sites status -Todd Bober**
- **Environmental Geographic Information System status report by Tetra Tech NUS**

NEW BUSINESS

- **Election Of Community Co-Chair**
- **RAB member training package**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **PROJECT-Emmet E Turley**
- **EDUCATION-Kathy Abbass**
- **MEMBERSHIP-Howard Porter**
- **PUBLIC INFORMATION-Eugene Love**
- **PLANNING-Tom McGrath**

NEXT MEETING February 20, 2002

- Eel grass preservation

ADJOURN

Enclosure (1)

EGIS Screen Examples by TetraTech NUS

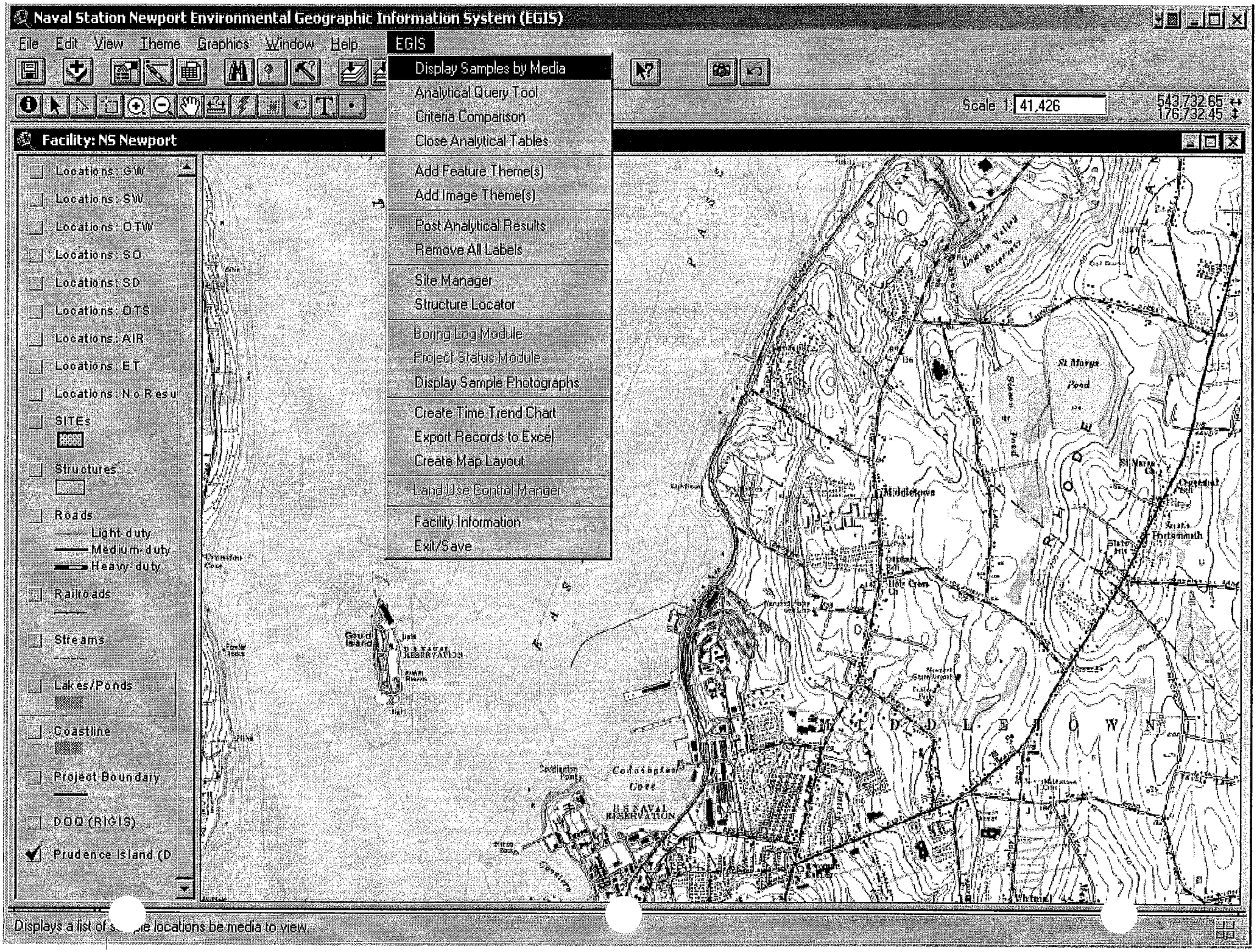
Slide 1: This slide shows the "EGIS Menu". This menu has been customized to make the GIS more user friendly and make associated data more easily accessible to the "non-GIS" user. This menu allows users to add in feature themes such as detailed CADD drawings for specific sites, image themes such as aerial photographs, and the analytical data associated with sampling locations throughout the facility. The current view window displays a USGS topographic quadrangle for Newport.

Slide 2: This slide shows an image theme that has been added into the view window. This is an example of a color aerial photograph.

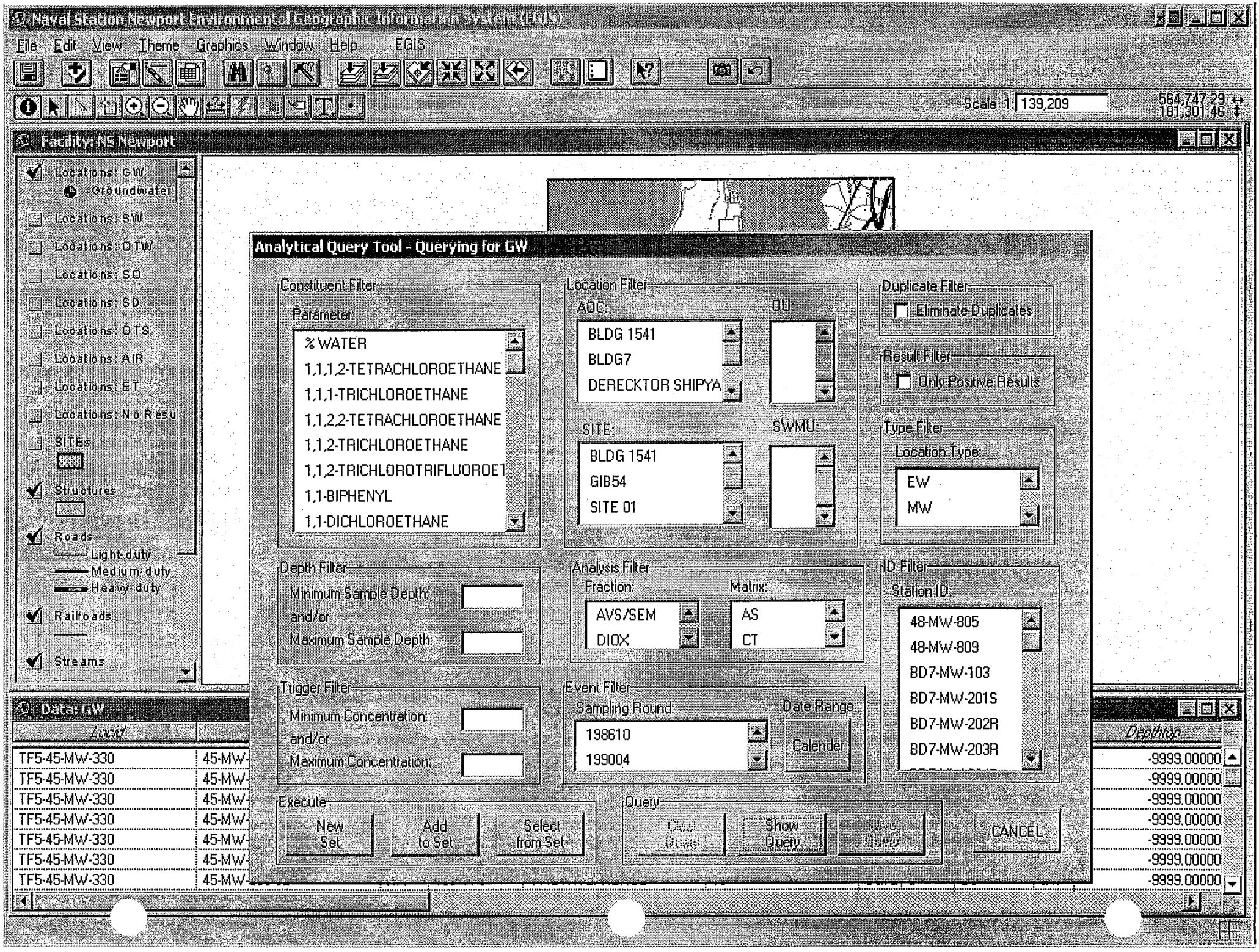
Slide 3: This slide shows the "Analytical Query Tool". This menu allows the user to display samples by media then access all analytical data associated with those sampling locations. This tool allows the user to easily query the data for subsets of the data based upon user input. The user can create a query based on parameter, fraction, depth, concentration, round or date of sampling event, site, or by sampling location. Upon execution of the input query, the results are highlighted both in the data table and in the view.

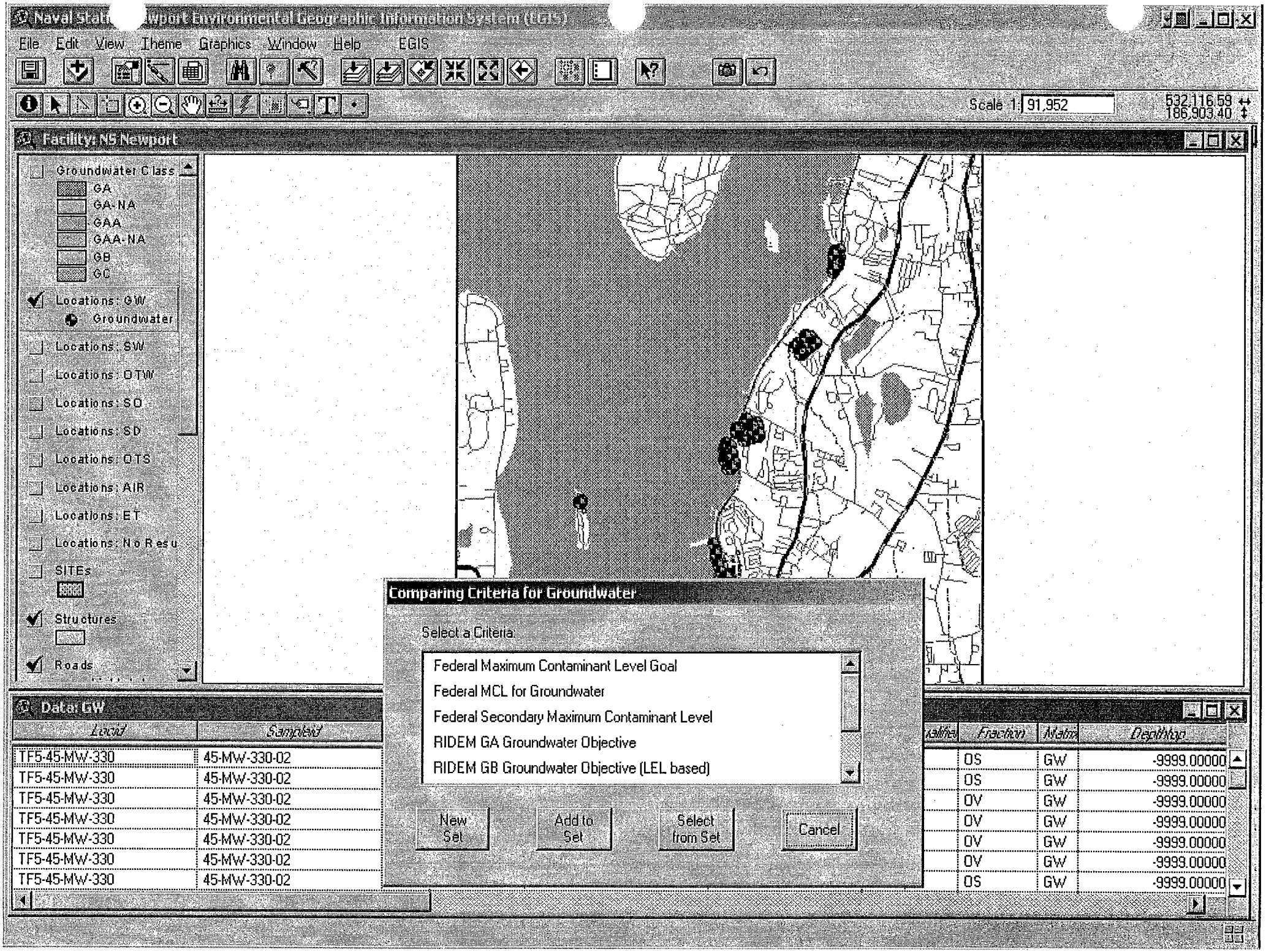
Slide 4: This slide shows the Criteria Comparison Tool. Sampling locations are displayed by media and analytic results can be screened against the criteria selected by the user from the list. Results exceeding the selected criteria will be highlighted both in the data table and view window.

Enclosure (2)


Naval Station Newport Environmental Geographic Information System (EGIS)
File Edit View Theme Graphics Window Help EGIS
Display Samples by Media
Analytical Query Tool
Criteria Comparison
Close Analytical Tables
Add Feature Theme(s)
Add Image Theme(s)
Post Analytical Results
Remove All Labels
Site Manager
Structure Locator
Boring Log Module
Project Status Module
Display Sample Photographs
Create Time Trend Chart
Export Records to Excel
Create Map Layout
Land Use Control Manager
Facility Information
Exit/Save
Scale 1: 41,426
543,732.65
176,732.45
Facility: NS Newport
Locations: GW
Locations: SW
Locations: OTW
Locations: SO
Locations: SD
Locations: OTS
Locations: AIR
Locations: ET
Locations: No Resu
SITEs
Structures
Roads
Light-duty
Medium-duty
Heavy-duty
Railroads
Streams
Lakes/Ponds
Coastline
Project Boundary
DOQ (RIGIS)
Prudence Island (D
Displays a list of s le locations be media to view.


Naval Stati ewport Environmental Geographic Information System (EGIS)
File Edit View Theme Graphics Window Help EGIS
Scale 1: 8,845
550,696.99
170,520.12
Facility: NS Newport
Locations: OTW
Locations: SO
Locations: SD
Locations: OTS
Locations: AIR
Locations: ET
Locations: No Resu
SITEs
Structures
Roads
Light duty
Medium-duty
Heavy-duty
Railroads
Streams
Lakes/Ponds
Coastline
Project Boundary
DOQ (RIGIS)
Prudence Island (D
Aerial (Clr) Codding
Aerial (Clr) Codding
Aerial (Clr) Mosaic


Naval Station Newport Environmental Geographic Information System (EGIS)
File Edit View Theme Graphics Window Help EGIS
Scale 1: 139,209
564,747.29
161,301.46
Facility: NS Newport
Locations: GW
Groundwater
Locations: SW
Locations: OTW
Locations: SO
Locations: SD
Locations: OTS
Locations: AIR
Locations: ET
Locations: No Resu
SITEs
Structures
Roads
Light duty
Medium duty
Heavy duty
Railroads
Streams
Analytical Query Tool - Querying for GW
Constituent Filter
Parameter:
%WATER
1,1,1,2-TETRACHLOROETHANE
1,1,1-TRICHLOROETHANE
1,1,2,2-TETRACHLOROETHANE
1,1,2-TRICHLOROETHANE
1,1,2-TRICHLOROTRIFLUOROET
1,1-BIPHENYL
1,1-DICHLOROETHANE
Location Filter
AOC:
BLDG 1541
BLDG7
DERECKTOR SHIPYA
OU:
SITE:
BLDG 1541
GIB54
SITE 01
SWMU:
Duplicate Filter
Eliminate Duplicates
Result Filter
Only Positive Results
Type Filter
Location Type:
EW
MW
Depth Filter
Minimum Sample Depth:
and/or
Maximum Sample Depth:
Analysis Filter
Fraction:
AVS/SEM
DIOX
Matrix:
AS
CT
ID Filter
Station ID:
48-MW-805
48-MW-809
BD7-MW-103
BD7-MW-201S
BD7-MW-202R
BD7-MW-203R
Trigger Filter
Minimum Concentration:
and/or
Maximum Concentration:
Event Filter
Sampling Round
198610
199004
Date Range
Calender
Execute
New Set
Add to Set
Select from Set
Query
Clear Query
Show Query
Save Query
CANCEL
Data: GW
Level
TF5-45-MW-330
45-MW-
Depth
-9999.00000


Naval Station Newport Environmental Geographic Information System (EGIS)
File Edit View Theme Graphics Window Help EGIS
Scale 1: 91,952
532,116.59
186,903.40
Facility: NS Newport
Groundwater Class
GA
GA-NA
GAA
GAA-NA
GB
GC
Locations: GW
Groundwater
Locations: SW
Locations: OTW
Locations: SO
Locations: SD
Locations: OTS
Locations: AIR
Locations: ET
Locations: No Resu
SITEs
Structures
Roads
Comparing Criteria for Groundwater
Select a Criteria:
Federal Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
Federal MCL for Groundwater
Federal Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level
RIDEM GA Groundwater Objective
RIDEM GB Groundwater Objective (LEL based)
New Set
Add to Set
Select from Set
Cancel
Data: GW
Locid
Sampleid
TF5-45-MW-330 45-MW-330-02
TF5-45-MW-330 45-MW-330-02
TF5-45-MW-330 45-MW-330-02
TF5-45-MW-330 45-MW-330-02
TF5-45-MW-330 45-MW-330-02
TF5-45-MW-330 45-MW-330-02
TF5-45-MW-330 45-MW-330-02
Fraction
Matrix
Depthtop
OS GW -9999.00000
OS GW -9999.00000
OV GW -9999.00000
OV GW -9999.00000
OV GW -9999.00000
OV GW -9999.00000
OS GW -9999.00000

RAB TEAMWORK GROUND RULES

ALL VIEWS ARE VALID

TALK TO THE CHAIRMAN

SUSPEND JUDGEMENT

NO PERSONAL ACCUSATIONS

ONE VOICE AT A TIME

MAINTAIN RELEVANCE

ADHERE TO TIME ALLOCATION

FOCUS ON THE JOB (TASK IS THE BOSS)

ESTABLISH CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ANYTHING YOU SAY
WILL NOT BE USED AGAINST YOU LATER

January 16,2001

Newport Restoration Advisory Board
Project Committee Report
"Dredging Dilemma-what is the right thing to do?"

The information provided to you this month concerns the dilemma that has lasted for over twenty-five years on the Hudson River with respect to alleged PCB contamination by the General Electric Company. It describes the ongoing struggle between private industries and environmentalist.

As demands for dredging in our local waters increase, it is important to recognize that the Federal Government needs to examine all the issues fairly with respect to the citizens in the area, the native species, the commercial interests, but most especially to health and environmental concerns.

Consequently, as restoration projects go forward on Aquidneck Island over the years, this board should be aware of what has happened in other areas and be alert to the many dangers that may occur through these processes.

Submitted by:

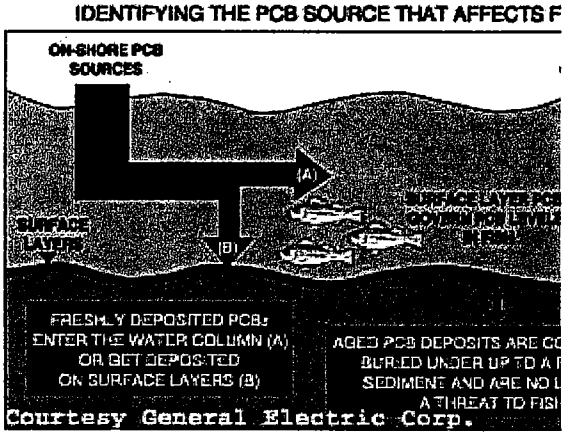
Emmet E Turley.
Emmet E. Turley, Chairperson

Enclosure 4

DREDGING

What is Dredging?

By Jen Sall



The federal government plans to dredge the upper Hudson River to remove toxic PCB's. So how will they do it?

There are different types of dredging techniques. Two different types of dredges are navigation and construction dredging and environmental dredging. The type of dredging that would be used to remove the PCBs from the Hudon River is environmental dredging.

Navigation and construction dredging deals with large open clamshell dredges, these dre used to remove a build up of sediment and debris from waterway channels. This is used foı construction tasks and the improvement of navigation. The private, non-profit group, Huds Sloop Clearwater, states that this type of dredging would not be used to clean up chemicals wastes such as PCBs.

Environmental dredging is focused on removing sediment and debris from targeted regi According to Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, this type of dredging is very accurate and, if Hudson River, will result in a small amount of resuspension of PCB contaminated sediment particles. Environmental dredging is used with a great amount of control and uses equipme the hydraulic dredge. The hydraulic dredge is best explained as a large vacuum that will re quantities of PCB contaminated sediments from the bottom of the river using strong suctior

Other examples of environmental hydraulic dredges consist of the cutterhead and the ed Environmental dredges are frequently fixed with GPS (global positioning system) technolo and/or sonar equipment to carefully observe the process. The river will also remain clear e install underwater cameras. If a problem should take place during the dredging process, nu water testing sites located around the dredging area will immediately recognize the problen process can be quickly aborted. There are also extra safety precautions taken such as silt cu which prevent loose sediment from spreading out of the work area. More details on enviro dredging can be found on Hudson River Sloop Clearwater's website.

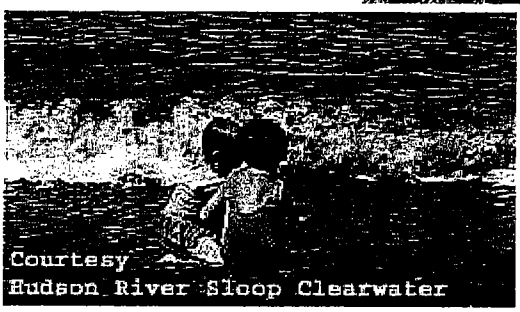
Click here to see the alternatives to dredging. Click here to see the government's invol

Home Page | PCB's | Effects of PCB's | Dredging | Pros of Dredging | Cons of Dredging | Life on the River | Timeline | Sources | Sitemap | Summer Scholars 2001

Click here for video at 56K

Click here for video at T1 speed

Click here to get FREE realplayer



PCB's as Human Carcinogens

By Alden Pasquarelli

Polychlorinated biphenyls, PCB's, in the Hudson River pose a serious health issue; the s depending on the foods that are consumed with the various levels of PCB's in them. Peopl animals that eat fish, including seafood and marine mammals, are most prone to PCB conta that they eat the fish on a regular basis. PCB's levels are high among low income people wl fish.

General Electric dumped toxic PCB's into the upper Hudson River until 1977. The fede government ordered the company to help pay to remove the PCB's. GE is opposed to the p it would not work.

The fish caught from the Hudson River contain extremely high levels of PCB's. The Ce Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment states that people most at risk to contamina both expectant mothers and their babies in the womb. It also states that children are also at if they have ingested the toxic substance. Babies exposed to PCB's while in the womb are have lower birth weights, slower brain development, and learning problems. Studies of chi Arctic with PCB exposure have shown that the children are prone to infectious diseases an infections. Problems found in a baby of one generation have been proven to effect the nex in a negative way. "The Human Health Risk Assessment" released by the EPA in Decemb the Mid-Hudson River discovered that fish in the river had serious cancerous effects. The fish can lead to cancer and hormonal and reproductive problems. Some PCB's are now bei discovered to be even more harmful than expected in that they have shown to reduce levels neurotransmitter in the human brain known as dopamine. They have also been found to de ability of the nervous system to fight infections. Other side effects to high levels of PCB e include irritation of the nose and lungs, skin irritations, and rashes.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, PCB's are human carcinogens companies, such as General Electric, disagree. GE claims that PCB's offer no cancerous ri people or animals. Also, The International Agency for Research on Cancer and the Enviro Protection Agency classify PCB's as a probable human carcinogen. The National Toxicolo has concluded that PCB's are reasonably likely to cause cancer in humans. (http://www.clearwater.org/news/pcbhealth.html) They not only play a role in human heal animal health as well. It has been shown that the toxins cause tumors in animals.

Over the years PCB's have proven to be major risks regarding human health and organ s The true source of contamination is derived from fish caught from the Hudson River. The estimated an increased cancer risk as high as 1 in 2500 for people eating certain species of the Hudson River.

Effect of PCB's on the Ecosystem

By Katie Blouse

Polychlorinated biphenyls, better known as PCB's, have a harmful effect on the ecosyste Hudson River. As stated by New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, not only do P humans, but also animals living in and along the river.

Fish and other aquatic creatures living in the Hudson ingest the PCB's found in the wate the river bottom. The chemical gets caught in the fatty tissues of the organisms that eat it. another creature eats the PCB-laden animal, the contaminant is spread through the food cha known as biomagnification. PCB's cause harm in animals found higher in the food chain, t depleting sources of food or predators for other animals and disrupting the ecosystem.

Harmful effects of PCB's on plants and animals include:

* Cancer
* Mycobacteriosis (bacterial infection)
* Liver lesions
* Genetic defects

The PCB's, which were dumped into the Hudson River by General Electric, poison the environment. A suggested method of removing them is a five-year dredging project. If thi most of the sub-aquatic plants would die, as well as some of the animals. Adam Ayers, a b works for General Electric, said, "It's almost like clear-cutting a forest. It's going to denud bottom."

According to General Electric, five years of dredging in the Hudson River would devast ecosystem. Stephen Ramsey, the vice president of GE, said in reference to the EPA's Dece statement that, "a massive dredging program of the type proposed today could be devastati ecosystem."

However, Scenic Hudson, an environmental group that dredging, believes that while dredging will have short- on the ecosystem, it will in no way devastate it. In 199 Hudson said, "The most significant impact would be th unavoidable destruction of aquatic plants andb benthic in the shallow nearshore areas where dredging would c hot spot dredging would leave most of the upper Huds untouched and the impacted areas would be re-coloniz organisms from surrounding undisturbed areas and trib

The Environmental Protection Agency plans to replant 1 million aquatic plants in order t the ecosystem after dredging occurs. They believe that this will adequately restore damage the ecosystem.

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Home Page | PCB's | Effects of PCB's | Dredging | Pros of Dredging | Cons of Dredging | Life on the Hudson

Timeline | Sources | Sitemap

Summer Scholars 2001

The Pros of Dredging

By Jen Sall

Between General Electric and the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), the views o differ dramatically. The EPA's plan to dredge the Hudson River will remove the PCB conta sediments, strengthen the local economy, improve navigational access, and increase trade a

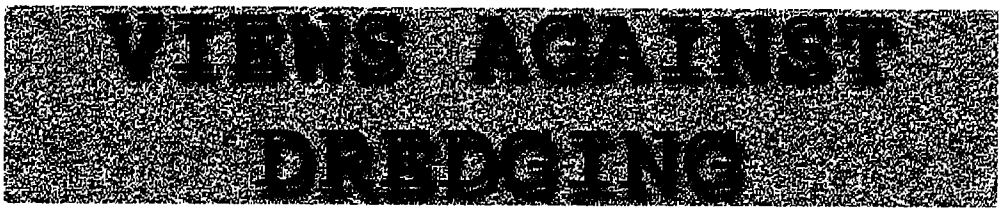
Manna Jo Greene, Environmental Director of Hudson River Sloop Clearwater congratul EPA on their plan to dredge and states, "Clearwater, along with many other environmental the Hudson Valley, supports a rigorous remediation which minimizes impacts on river ecol human health.

For decades, General Electric has polluted the Hudson River with PCBs. The EPA dredging project will successfully decrease the high levels of PCB contaminated sediments in the river and bring many benefits to the society and the environment with a small number of environmental impacts. Dredging the Hudson River seems to be the right thing to do, according to the EPA and environmental groups, who think that the estimated cost of $460 million to dredge will be a good investment. It is said dredging will extensiv strengthen the local ec increase the amount o available. According t the dredging itself wil navigational access ar few years after the cle finished, recreational commercial fisheries t put to a halt will be fu When the dredging an finished, the river will and cleaner place to b result, trade and touris

region will increase, says Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, a private, non-profit, environme that seeks to improve the health of the Hudson River. A major concern to many of the resic near the river is how much they will be disturbed during the dredging process. According t River Sloop Clearwater, Lake Champlain has recently gone through a dredging project, an the dredging efficiently removing 25,000 pounds of PCBs over a three-year period and red contamination by 90%. Homes located near the river were completely undisturbed. The mc beaches along the river were not affected by the dredging either, and stayed open during th the dredging takes place, it will result in significant environmental benefits with very few a environmental impacts and the dredging of PCB contaminated sediments will lessen the sp PCBs throughout the Hudson River. Supporters say this will lessen the PCB levels in fish a aquatic organisms. The dredging will also reduce human health risks and entirely revive th environment. According to the EPA, as long as PCBs are localized in upper river sediment

be effectively removed.

Click here to see the fishermen's view. Click here to see Scenic Hudson's view. Click here to see Clearwater's view. Click here E.P.A.



Cons of Dredging

By Robin Eisenhut

Dredging the Hudson is a bad idea because it could devastate the ecosystem, take a long complete and raise controversy about the disposal of the contaminants.

"The issue before us is not about doing nothing, it's about doing what's right for the rive Bob Gibson, of the Hudson River team at General Electric. Many people who are opposed seem to have the same opinion about their views. They feel that for various reasons dredgir best choice for the Hudson.

Due to the PCB's currently contaminating the river all the major organizations involved, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Scenic Hudson, Clearwater, GE and even citizens ; such as CEASE agree that some course of action needs to be taken. But not everyone agree dredging is the best course of action for the surrounding wildlife, communities and busines Hudson River. GE scientists have said that the EPA's proposed plan may cause irreparable the ecosystem of the river, also, citizens worry about the time it will take and where the PC deposited.

The EPA's dredging proposal expects to remove 60% of the current foundation of the fo well as 170 acres of valuable underwater vegetation. This could cause a delay of up to 20 y reestablishing the fishery that the pro dredging groups are trying to support. In 1984 the EP dredging devastating to the ecosystem due to the inadequate control of resuspension, whicl spreading of contamination throughout the river. Resuspension is another problem facing tl ecosystem, in Wisconsin a river was dredged that resulted in 2.2%- 10% resuspension. Thi result in further contamination within the organisms of the river and considering PCB's mig through the food chain, it would also result in higher overall levels of PCB's in fish, which the release on fishing restrictions.

Citizens of upper river communities, mostly above the Troy/Albany area, are concerned things: the time the proposed dredging will affect their communities and where the newly d contaminated sediments will be disposed. Because of these factors citizens' groups like CE formed.

"Originally it was a group of farmers and farm-related families that were fighting the pr dredging because the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation was pro they dump the PCB dredge spoils on farm land here in Washington County," said Tim Hav President of CEASE, which stands for Citizen Environmentalists Against Sludge Encapsul Havens says that his group later legally defeated the proposal. But one major concern is tha proposed that two 15-acre land-based hazardous waste sites will be needed but the sites ha distinguished. Many riverside communities do not want the waste residing in their commur dredging. Another concern of the citizens is that the length of the dredging project will dist homes and river for too long. It is proposed that the dredging continue for 6.5 months a yea years. The dredging may occur literally in residents' backyards, and their personal enjoyme river will be disturbed. This could also cause the river businesses and recreation to lose atte possibly have to temporarily halt.

Businesses especially will have to recover from dredging in their general, for example, Schuylerville marina owner Phil Dean. Despite the congestion of trucks and barges that wil waterways that support his livelihood, Dean's concern is the destruction of the wildlife that result fro the dredging. "You have to realize, wherever they dredge it'll look like this - there nothing, there'll be no plants, the fish will be gone, they won't have a place to stay, the wild gone," Dean said.

Click here to see General Electric's view

Click here to see the citizen group C.E.A.S.E.'s view.

Click here to see the farmer's view.

Click here to see the boating i

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Hudson River PCB Timeline

By Dianne D. Graham

1865 First PCB-like chemicals are discovered.

1929 Monsanto Company commence making PCB's.

1936 First study uncovered that there are immense health and safety problems with PCB's.

1947 General Electric begins using PCB's to construct electrical capacitors at its Ft. Edward plant on the eastern shore of the Hudson River.

1952 General Electric embarks on using PCB's in the manufacture of electrical capacitors at its plant in Hudson Falls.

1968 PCB's infection in Japan leads to awareness of toxic effects of PCB's.

1973 U.S. Food and Drug Administration creates a tolerance level of 5.0 parts per million (ppm) in fish.

1973 Ft. Edward Dam removed from the upper Hudson River, causing large amounts of PCB's to flow in lower Hudson River.

1974 United States Food and Drug Administration sets safety threshold at 5 parts per million in fish for human consumption.

1974 EPA surveys illustrate high PCB levels in Hudson River fish.

1975 Administrative hearing begins between GE and New York State's Department of Environmental Conservations, concerning PCB discharges.

1976 Congress passes the Toxic Substance Control Act, prohibiting the manufacture of PCB's and prohibiting all uses except in fully enclosed systems.

2/76 DEC makes it illegal to fish in the upper Hudson from the Ft. Edward Dam to the federal dam in Albany. DEC closes Hudson River commercial fisheries, and notifies people about the dangers of eating Hudson River fish.

2/76 Administrative Hearing finds that the PCB pollution was GE's fault, due to the corporate abuse and regulatory failure.

4/76 The worst flood in over 100 years causes significant amounts of polluted sediments to flow down river.

9/76 General Electric stops dumping PCB's into the Hudson River from its Hudson Fall / Ft. Edward plants.

1976 General Electric agrees to spend $1 million on PCB research and $3 million to monitor the PCB's in the river, and in return will not be liable for the PCB pollution by state.

1977 Monsanto ceases all production of PCB's.

5/77 EPA makes it illegal to discharge any PCB's into navigable waters under the Clean Water Act.

3/78 DEC publicizes a proposition to dredge 40 "hot spots" of contaminated sediments from the Thompson Island Pool area of upper Hudson.

10/80 Section 116-Hudson River PCB Reclamation Demonstration Project- added to the Clean Water Act. Congress appropriates $ 20 million for the project funds to be accessible until 1983.

9/81 Administrative Hearings before NYS Hazardous Waste Facility Siting Board convened on DEC's proposed hot spot dredging project.

4/82 Siting Board grants certificate for dredging project.

10/82 EPA issues a Final Environmental Impact Statement on the PCB project, recommending dredging, but limiting the project to 20 hotspots due to funding restrictions.

12/82 EPA Administrator Ann Gorsuch announces Record of Decisions on FEIS-SECT.116 money not obtainable because "Superfund" money is available.

5/83 Clearwater, Scenic Hudson, NRDC, Hudson River Fishermen's Assoc. file suit against EPA to retain Sect.116 money.

9/83 EPA releases updated Superfund National Priority List, which includes the upper Hudson River.

1984 EPA studies the PCB crisis and issues a Record of Decision calling for NO

ACTION.

5/84 FDA announces new PCB tolerance level for fish.

8/84 EPA revises safety threshold to 2 parts per mill ion for human consumption in wake of new risk data.

5/85 DEC closes commercial striped bass fisheries in New York Harbor and waters off western Long Island, and initiates a tagging program for eastern Long Island striped bass fishery.

3/87 DEC reopens recreational striped bass fishery in Hudson River and Long Island waters. Health advisories against eating striped bass and other species remain in effect.

7/87 DEC designates GE's Hudson Falls Plant as a state Superfund site.

2/89 DEC requires GE to complete further investigations of contamination, and also a study to evaluate possible on- site and off- site cleanup alternatives.

8/89 DEC asks the EPA to reevaluate their 1994 federal Superfund "No Actions" decisions. The levels in fish are still dangerous and a new study proves that dredging the river sediments would be a good solution.

12/89 DEC releases Hudson River PCB Action Plan calling for dredging of 250,00 pounds of PCBs from the Hudson.

9/90 DEC reopens limited commercial striped bass fishery on the east end on Long Island.

1991 A wooden wall collapses beneath the abandon Allen Mill, spilling a large amount of toxic waste into the Hudson.

8/92 Again water tests show high amounts or PCB's. A test of sediments near an old discharge pipe from the Hudson Falls plant also show high levels of PCB's. DEC starts investigating the source.

2/93 DEC releases 1992 fish sampling data showing that PCB levels in the Upper Hudson River enhances are linked to the 300% between 1991 and 1992. The drastic increase are linked to the high levels of PCB's seen in the water column in September of 1991.

5/93 General Electric says that PCB's have probably been leaking from the ground at its Hudson Falls plant since at least the early 1980's.
GE discovers that the1991 a sudden increase in water flow through the abandoned Allen Mill structure between the General Electric plant site allowed a large amount of PCB's to

re-enter the river. It is believed that PCB contamination groundwater, which had been draining out of the rock face into the old mill for years, is now going continuously into the river.

6/93 Seven General Electric capacitors filled with PCBs are found in the Hudson River next to the Hudson Falls plant. The capacitors are removed from the river.

7/93 DEC tells General Electric to find ways to clean up the land around and under the plants, but General Electric does not have to clean up the river.

7/93 DEC tests an "oily liquid" found oozing into Allen Mills's structure. It proves to be 72% pure PCB's.

10/93 DEC holds public meetings regarding Hudson Falls site, identifies the following areas of contamination: ground water; trace levels to 90% PCB's sediments in Allen's Mill raceways; 2,000 to 50,000 parts per million-sediments in Hudson River adjacent to the plant; 20, 000 ppm/

10/93 DEC and General Electric agree to begin cleanup on the Hudson Falls and Ft. Edward sites.

1995 Clean up continues at Hudson Falls and Ft. Edward. DEC reopens fishing in the upper Hudson River as a catch and release program.

1996 Scientist discover that PCB's dissolve from the Hudson River water and tide-exposed sediment. Blood tests of Hudson Valley inhabitants reveal elevated levels of PCB's in non-fish eaters.

10/96 EPA informs environmentalists that its PCB health hazard assessment will not include investigation of the inhalation pathway, will not include endocrine disruption effects of PCB's, and will not include risks for women and children.

4/97 The United States Fish & Wildlife Services releases study showing tree swallows breeding near Hudson Falls have high concentrations of PCB's in their body and eggs. Levels up to 55ppm are documented, qualifying the birds as hazardous waste.

7/97 Governor Pataki announces that New York State will work with the federal government in establishing Hudson River Natural Resource Trustee Council. This is the first step in the process of determining whether a Natural Resources Damages claim should be filed.

9/97 Body of a 16-week-old bald eagle is found along the Hudson River with 71 ppm of PCB's in its body fat.

9/97 Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt holds a press conference along the Hudson

demanding that GE stop trying to delay the clean up of PCB contamination sediment. He also states that the Superfund program should not be altered or weakened and efforts to do so by large companies need to stop.

10/97 Report is released determining that a Natural Resources Damages Claim is warranted and should be pursued.

9/00 EPA releases the Feasibility Study Scope of Works, a document that outlines the progression of constructing the Feasibility Study.

12/00 EPA releases the Feasibility Study Report and Proposed Plan (better known as the dredging plan). This plan is not a binding order, and is still subject to public comment. This plan calls for 5 years of dredging which will cost $470 million.

6/01 EPA to release the Record of Decision (ROD), in addition to a Responsiveness Summary which portrays the public comment and describes the community's exclaim received, and outlines EPA's response to the input. The ROD is a legally binding order to remediate. If General Electric elects to challenge the ROD, EPA may begin cleanup itself, with public money, and GE risks being accountable for paying three times the incurred cleanup costs if it loses on appeal.

Environment

ENVIRONMENT NEWS SERVICE

EPA Upholds Plan to Dredge Hudson River

By Cat Lazaroff

WASHINGTON, DC, August 1, 2001 (ENS) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has decided to go ahead with plans to force the General Electric company to spend more than $500 million to clean up contaminated sediments in the Hudson River. GE has spent tens of millions of dollars in recent months lobbying to overturn the Clinton era plan, which would dredge as many as 2.65 million cubic yards from the river.

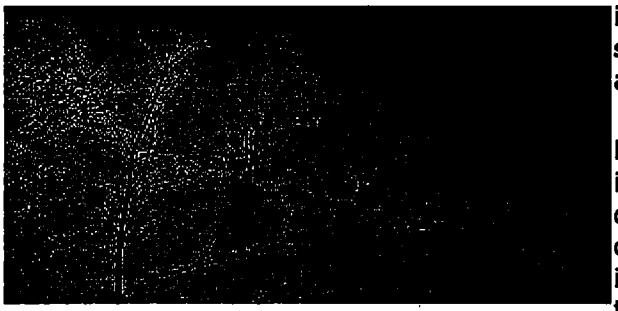
General Electric's Hudson Falls Plant and Bakers Falls on the Hudson River
(Three photos courtesy EPA)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Christie Whitman said today that the EPA is circulating for interagency review a draft proposal that, in most respects, tracks the plan proposed by the agency last December under the Clinton administration.

"The Administration is committed to cleaning up the Hudson River in a manner that is environmentally sound and is responsive to the concerns of the affected communities," said Whitman.

To that end, the EPA intends to incorporate the draft cleanup plan with a series of performance standards by which the cleanup will be regularly evaluated. The performance indicators being considered will include measuring PCB levels in the soil, and the water column as well as measuring the percentage of dredged material that gets suspended in the river.

Two PCB deposits are shown here, one indicated by the trees



in the river, and the second by the yellow area on the bank.

Based on these indicators, the EPA will determine at each stage of the project whether it is scientifically justified to continue the cleanup. PCB levels in fish will be monitored throughout the project as well.

PCBs are polychlorinated biphenyls, and some 1.1 million pounds are thought to be deposited in the river. The substance has been linked to cancer in humans and bioaccumulates in fish.

The chemical was banned in 1977, but prior to that time, General Electric (GE) had been dumping the chemical for more than 35 years. The Hudson River was declared a Superfund site in 1983.

For almost two decades, GE has been resisting the EPA's attempts to make the company take financial responsibility for the river cleanup and remediation. GE has taken a number of steps to halt or reduce continuing contamination of the Hudson through runoff of PCB contaminated sediments, but has fought bitterly against proposals that it spend half a billion dollars to clean up the river bottom.

The calm surface of this Hudson River pool conceals what the EPA designates as Hot Spot 8 because of its high concentration of PCBs.

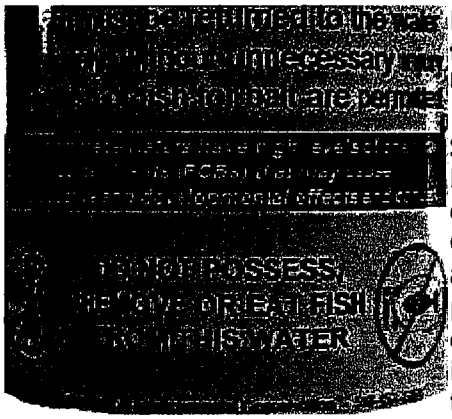
Since the EPA first released its dredging proposal, the company has reportedly spent millions of dollars to battle the plan, including funding an unsuccessful lawsuit aimed at having portions of the federal Superfund law, under which the dredging is required, declared unconstitutional.

Today, the company released a statement expressing disappointment in Whitman's decision to proceed with what GE terms a "massive dredging project of the Upper Hudson River, which will cause more harm than good."

"This is a loss for the people of the area who overwhelmingly oppose this project and the decades of disruption it will bring to their communities," GE said. "It appears that neither sound science nor the voices of these residents played a part in the EPA's decision."

Since the initial cleanup proposal last year, the EPA has received more than 70,000 comments from a variety of parties regarding the proposed plan. Many of these comments came from individuals who

proposed plan. Many of these comments came from individuals who live along the upper Hudson River and who are concerned about the environmental and economic impacts of dredging.



New York State Warning sign on the Hudson River (Photo courtesy N.Y. Bass Club)

Studies conducted since last December by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and the U.S. Geological Survey raised questions about the impacts of river dredging, particularly the potential risk that dredging could release more PCBs into the water, increasing the risk to wildlife and downstream water users.

But the NAS study also confirmed the EPA's findings that dredging should result in significant improvements in PCB levels in the river, with few short term impacts.

The new plan is expected to ensure the proposal for cleaning up the river will not put individuals at greater risk of PCB exposure. The EPA also plans to establish a community involvement program that will provide the public with opportunity for input throughout the project.

Environmental groups called Whitman's decision a victory for environmental protection over corporate interests.

Dredging contaminated river sediments (Photo courtesy GE)

"Following a series of Administration decisions that favor the interests of corporate polluters over the environment and public health, the decision is a welcome sign that the EPA can still do what the science says must be done to protect the environment and public health," said American Rivers president Rebecca Wodder.

"This April, American Rivers placed the Hudson River on the list of America's Most Endangered Rivers to call attention to GE's expensive and misleading public relations campaign to persuade the public that the clean up plan is risky and unnecessary," Wodder added. "Following Administrator Whitman's decision, we hope to be able to remove the river from next year's list."

Citizens to Cleanup GE, a project of the nonprofit group Essential Information, called on GE to embrace the EPA's proposed plan to clean up the Hudson River.

Todd Main, a spokesperson for the Cleanup GE Campaign said, "If GE resists the EPA plan it will send a message that GE is indifferent to health and environmental concerns. Such an action may well spark a nationwide consumer boycott of GE products," he warned.

A network of 239 recovery and monitoring wells has been installed around GE's plants to monitor PCBs in the groundwater, prevent movement of PCBs to the river and recover PCB oils from the bedrock

GE continued today to laud its own efforts to clean up the river.

"GE has invested $200 million in Hudson River research and restoration projects over the past 20 years and has met every commitment made to state and federal regulators," the company stated. "This had led to remarkable improvement in the river during this period."

Toxics Targeting, an environmental database firm, recently released a citizens' guide detailing 40 land sites where GE's PCB contamination threatens homes, drinking water and the Hudson. The guide is available at: http://www.CleanUpGE.org

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