

**GE's legacy of PCB pollution in the Hudson River is being decided right now.** By this fall, two years ahead of schedule, most of General Electric's PCB in-river dredging operations will be completed and its multimillion-dollar facilities shut down. But the company still faces a potentially deep Natural Resource Damage (NRD) assessment (*compensating the public for decades of damage and loss caused by PCB contamination*). A call is being sent to GE to act responsibly and quickly to address some portion of its NRD liability through additional dredging of deeply polluted areas in the upper Hudson ignored in the EPA's court-ordered remediation.

**Because the cleanup only targeted 65 percent of PCB contamination in the upper Hudson, significant amounts of highly contaminated sediment will not be removed.** Of most concern is contamination in the navigational channel and 136 acres of toxic "hotspots" above the Troy Dam. Leaving this large amount of polluted sediment behind will delay the river's full recovery by decades, limit future restoration opportunities, restrict deep-draft shipping in the river and Champlain Canal, and prevent communities from making long-term economic redevelopment plans.

**Federal and state trustees tasked with NRD assessments have long identified these contaminated areas as a threat to the water, fish and people who utilize the Hudson River (especially low-income populations who traditionally disregard advisories against eating fish).** The contaminated navigational channel and hotspots identified by NRD trustees could be negotiated into a Cooperative Agreement for an early NRD settlement. Upriver communities have asked downriver municipalities and organizations supporting this strategy to unite in a robust public call for GE, the state and federal Trustees to begin sincere and active talks. The window of opportunity is closing rapidly.

**The New York State Canal Corporation (Canal Corp) has been unable to dredge the Champlain Canal's navigational channel for over 30 years.** PCB pollution bars the Canal Corp from fulfilling its constitutional mandate to maintain the channel, with preliminary estimates of what it could cost the agency (and ultimately state taxpayers) to dredge it in the hundreds of millions of dollars. With its existing facilities, equipment and rail spur, GE could conduct this dredging efficiently and quickly while reducing its ultimate financial NRD liability.

**GE's talk of adhering to the limits of the court-ordered project is not about science or responsibility—it's about delay.** GE will use that delay to allow its legal and media experts time to persuade a distracted public to accept its version of success—a limited and incomplete cleanup. Despite its misleading statements and reports, GE faces deep restoration liabilities under the NRD assessment, and there is no reason to extend this process years into the future.

**Aggressive removal of this PCB-polluted sediment will impact communities all along the river.** In addition to a cleaner, healthier Hudson, the economic health of *all* riverfront communities—from Hudson Falls to New York City—hangs in the balance. In fact, every community below the Troy Dam depends on a thorough cleanup of the upper Hudson. This would stop large amounts of PCBs from continuing to flow over the dam, affecting millions of citizens.

**GE has the technical capability, capacity and financial motivation to conduct additional dredging as part of a Cooperative NRD Settlement at this time.** Every resident, elected official and municipality must be a determined and effective champion for the Hudson River—and help persuade GE to sit down with federal and state trustees before the window of opportunity closes forever. We are all responsible for the health of our river and our economies.

**In light of the decades-long damages to this public resource, Hudson River communities deserve a PCB cleanup that will remove enough pollution from river sediments to allow the river to recover damaged natural resources and wildlife populations quickly, safeguard public health generations sooner, and restore vibrant commercial and recreational activities in waterfront communities long denied the full use of one of New York's greatest historic and natural assets: the Hudson River and Champlain Canal.**