



United States
Environmental Protection Agency
Region 2: NJ, NY, PR, VI
26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10278

NEWS^E

93(14) Rich Cahill (212) 264-2515

FOR RELEASE: Monday, January 25, 1993

EPA TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING ON THE MARATHON BATTERY SUPERFUND SITE
IN COLD SPRING, N.Y.

NEW YORK, N. Y.-- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
(EPA) will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, February 3, 1993
at 7:30PM at Cold Spring Fire House, 152 Main Street Cold Spring,
New York, to answer questions about the proposed Consent Decree
for the Marathon Battery Company Superfund Site in Cold Spring
and to update the community about current and future activities
at the site.

EPA recently announced the lodging in Federal Court of a proposed
Consent Decree which embodies EPA's settlement for the Superfund
site with the U.S. Army, the Marathon Battery Company and Gould
Incorporated. EPA and the settling parties will have
representatives available at the meeting to solicit comments and
answer questions regarding the proposed Consent Decree. There is
a 30-day public comment period on the proposed settlement which
provides for performance of the site cleanup, the commitment of
funds from the settling parties for future cleanup work at the
site and recovery of past costs incurred by EPA.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The 60-acre Marathon Battery Company site includes a former
nickel-cadmium battery plant and 11 surrounding acres, the Hudson

- more -

River near the Village of Cold Spring pier, and a series of river backwater areas known as Foundry Cove and Constitution Marsh. The battery plant operated from 1953 to 1979, producing military and commercial nickel-cadmium batteries. During this time, the plant changed ownership several times, finally operating as the Marathon Battery Company from 1969 to 1979. Before 1965, the plant's wastewater treatment system discharged into the Hudson River at the Cold Spring pier through the use of the municipal sewer system, except during periods of overload or system shutdown, when the wastewater was discharged directly into East Foundry Cove.

In 1965, New York State Department of Health concluded that the new sewage system being designed for Cold Spring could not handle the plant's industrial discharge, and the operators began disposing of the wastewater in East Foundry Cove Marsh. Although the Marathon Battery Company and other potentially responsible parties dredged parts of Foundry Cove and surrounding areas in 1972 and 1973, studies of the wetlands still revealed high levels of cadmium and nickel in the late 1970s.

In 1980, the battery plant was sold to Merchandise Dynamics, Inc. for use as a warehouse to store books. All business activities at the site ceased in 1986. The decontaminated books are currently being removed and recycled as part of the plant cleanup. The surrounding area is residential and includes two historic districts.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation found high levels of heavy metals, including cadmium, zinc, nickel, and cobalt both inside and outside the plant. Trichloroethylene was detected in the groundwater underlying the site. A state-supervised sampling program conducted in 1984 and 1985 revealed widespread heavy metal contamination of the sediments and marsh soils of Foundry Cove. The highest levels were found in East Foundry Cove Marsh at the outfall from which the battery plant's process wastes were discharged. Cadmium was found in soils along on the fence line between the former battery plant and neighboring backyards. Tidal action has been slowly flushing remaining cadmium deposits from the wetlands into the Hudson River.

#

E

427



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION II
JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10278

**Representatives From
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Invite You to Attend
An Informational Public Meeting for the
Marathon Battery Company Superfund Site**

On

Wednesday, February 3, 1993

At

7:30PM

**Cold Spring Fire House
152 Main Street
Cold Spring, New York**

Purpose: To allow the community to address their concerns and comments about the proposed Consent Decree which embodies EPA's cleanup settlement with the U.S. Army, Marathon Battery Company and Gould Incorporated. In addition, the community will also be updated on current activities that are occurring at the site.

For Further Information Contact:

**Cecilia Echols
Community Relations Coordinator
212-264-0949**

or

**Pamela Taxes
Project Manager
212-264-1036**