



ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION

For More Information: Call

- ✓ Work at the site interrupted by cold weather.
- ✓ Site is shut down for the winter.
- ✓ Work will resume in the spring 2000.

or write the following staff for more information about:

The Site Cleanup Program:

Lech Dolata
NYSDEC, Div. Env.
Remediation
50 Wolf Road, Albany, NY
12233-7010
(518)457-9285;1(800)342-9296

Health-Related Concerns:

Richard Fedigan/Mark Van
Dusen
NYSDOH, 547 River Street
Troy, NY 12180
(518)402-7890;1(800)458-
1158, ext. 27890

FACT SHEET

Cumberland Bay Sludge Bed - Wilcox Dock Site
Plattsburgh, NY Site No. 5-10-017
NYSDEC, Region 5, Clinton County

December 1999

Cumberland Bay Sludge Bed Removal and Disposal

* * *

Site is Shut Down for the Winter

* * *

Cleanup Operations Will Resume in April, 2000

The work at the Cumberland Bay Sludge Bed Removal Site has been discontinued due to cold weather. Low temperatures and winds made it difficult for dredging crews to work under harsh winter conditions. Therefore, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), Earth Tech, Inc., the engineer for the project, and Severson Environmental Services (Severson), the contractor, decided to shut down site operation during the winter months. The work, including Cumberland Bay beach cleanup, is scheduled to resume at the end of April 2000.

Past discharges of waste including PCBs into the Cumberland Bay of Lake Champlain has resulted in creation of a sludge bed in the northwest corner of the Bay. The site is listed in the Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites as a Class "2" site. A Class 2 site poses a significant threat to public health or environment and requires action.

Work Performed Under the Contract: It is estimated that the project has reached 85% completion.

- The contractor removed by hydraulic dredging 141,000 cubic yards of PCB contaminated sludge. This material was dewatered prior to transportation and off-site disposal.
- 17,250 cubic yards of PCB contaminated soil were excavated from the shoreline and disposed off-site.
- 34,700 tons of PCB contaminated hazardous waste and 80,200 tons of non-hazardous contaminated waste were shipped off-site and disposed.
- A temporary dewatering and wastewater treatment facility operated continuously during dredging operations, treating water to the required discharge standards.

See the other side of this fact sheet for more information about the upcoming cleanup. Detailed project information is available for review at the repositories listed below.

Your Opportunities to Be Informed and Involved: You are encouraged to contact the staff listed at the left if you have questions or concerns. NYSDEC will keep you informed through the cleanup process.

Document Repositories. Two locations provide access to site information.

Plattsburgh Public Library
Oak and Brinkerhoff Street
Plattsburgh, NY (518)563-0921

NYSDEC Region 5 Office
Route 86, Ray Brook, NY
Contact: Daniel Steenberge (518)897-1241
(Over, please)

CUMBERLAND BAY SLUDGE BED CLEANUP

Summary of Sludge Bed Cleanup Action

Actions to Date

The NYSDEC has taken several actions since the listing of the site in November 1994. Since 1995, the Department has removed PCB contaminated materials washing up on the beaches of Cumberland Bay. More than 410 tons of PCB-contaminated material have been removed to date.

Additional fish sampling and analysis determined that the yellow perch in Cumberland Bay exceeded Food and Drug Administration limits for PCBs. Therefore, the fish consumption health advisory was expanded to include yellow perch and a ban on the sale of yellow perch from Cumberland Bay was ordered in 1995.

Also during 1995, an investigation to determine the nature and extent of the contaminated sludge bed was initiated.

The Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) was issued in July 1997. Two public meetings were held, the comment period was extended and additional meetings were held to inform various groups on the PRAP. A Responsiveness Summary was prepared to address public comment and the Record of Decision was signed in December 1997. The design for the remedy was completed in October 1998.

The Implemented Remedy

The work completed to date includes isolating the sludge bed with temporary sheet piling and silt curtains; removing the sludge bed by hydraulic dredging; excavating shoreline contamination; constructing and operating a temporary dewatering facility and wastewater treatment facility; transporting and off-site disposal of the dewatered materials; conducting confirmatory sampling and performing the beach cleaning as needed.

Contractor operates in accordance with a Health and Safety Plan which has been developed for this project. Implemented community protection measures include air and water quality monitoring during the remedial construction. Earth Tech., Inc., formerly Rust Environmental and Infrastructure Engineers, has been retained by the State to inspect the work throughout the contract time. Their on-site team is supplemented by a full-time NYSDEC inspector. The work is scheduled for completion in the fall 2000.

Funding for the Proposed Remedy

Part of the cost for the construction portion of the project is paid from the settlement monies provided by the Responsible Party. The remaining cost is funded under the 1986 Environmental Quality Bond Act.

Background Information

The Cumberland Bay of Lake Champlain has received waste from various local industries for several decades. The result of some of these discharges over time has been the creation of a sludge bed in the northwest corner of Cumberland Bay. The sludge bed is adjacent to the Wilcox Dock and is contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

This site is listed in the Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites as a Class 2 site. A Class 2 site poses a significant threat to the public health or environment. Contaminated debris from the sludge bed are currently washing up on the beaches of Cumberland Bay. Several species of fish within Cumberland Bay have elevated levels of PCBs and there is a health advisory in effect concerning the consumption of fish in Cumberland Bay. There is also a commercial fishing ban on yellow perch in Cumberland Bay.