UPDATE

Dredging Between Thompson Island and Fort Miller Dams

GE has made quite a bit of progress in the two-mile section of the Upper Hudson River between Thompson Island and Fort Miller dams. Since dredging began more than 13 weeks ago, nearly half of the 160,000 cubic yards of sediment targeted for removal in this stretch have been removed.

Barges filled with sediment have been pushed by tugboats to a narrow sliver of land situated just south of the eastern portion of the Thompson Island Dam on the east shore. There, standing water in the loaded barge is pumped off and piped to a larger barge in the land cut. Then, a long-reach excavator stationed on the property unloads the sediments from the loaded barge and places them into a sediment transfer bin situated on a concrete pad.

A second long-reach excavator stationed on the property moves sediments from the sediment transfer bin to the larger barge in the land cut. Once loaded, hopper barges are pushed by tugboats to the existing Fort Edward processing facility, where sediments are dewatered and loaded onto railcars for off-site disposal.

Dredging and backfilling activities in this stretch of river will continue for a portion of the 2015 construction season.
Activities will commence immediately following the opening of the lock system by the New York State Canal Corporation, in order to complete the work as soon as possible.

The facilities supporting dredging in this stretch of river — the East Side Support Property and the West Side Support Property — will be winterized for the off-season and reactivated in the spring.

**Dredging in the Main-Stem River**

This year, dredging activities in the navigable part of the Hudson River have been performed between Schuylerville and Troy. After more than 24 weeks of activities, GE has dredged more than 534,000 cubic yards, surpassing EPA’s annual goal for the project of 350,000 cubic yards. Since dredging began in 2009, more than 2.4 million cubic yards of sediment have been dredged from the river.

Once this season’s work is completed, dredging in the main stem will continue for one more season in 2015, followed by performance of the final year of habitat construction in 2016, decommissioning of support facilities and various long-term monitoring and maintenance activities.

**After Dredging, What’s Next?**

Even as the environmental dredging project draws to a close, GE’s work along the Hudson River will continue. Sampling and monitoring of river water and fish will be performed for many years to assess continuing environmental progress. Remedial work on the Hudson Falls and Fort Edward plant sites will continue.

Perhaps most significantly, GE’s focus will turn to the floodplains — low-lying areas near the Hudson shoreline that may flood during high-water events such as spring runoff. GE recently reached an agreement with EPA to perform a comprehensive assessment of the Hudson floodplain from Fort Edward to Troy.

The cooperative agreement builds on the significant sampling and interim remedial work GE already has completed in the floodplain. To date, GE has collected more than 7,000 samples of soil to determine whether and where PCBs are present. During the next stage of work, GE will delineate the presence of PCBs in the floodplain, conduct detailed assessments of areas found to contain elevated levels of PCBs and evaluate options for future remedial activities.

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**To find out more about the Hudson River**

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