HUDSON RIVER DREDGING – REVIEW OF YEAR 1 RESULTS

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In 2002, the EPA selected dredging to remediate PCBs within the upper Hudson River. Since that time, General Electric (GE) has been working collaboratively with the EPA to implement the project. The project required removal of approximately 2.6 MM cubic yards of sediment. After dredging, backfill or caps are placed depending on the PCB levels remaining. The EPA established unprecedented performance standards for the project including limits on PCB resuspension, PCB air emissions, noise and light levels, achievement of high production rates, and requirements to limit impacts to other river users.

There are two phases of this project. Phase 1 is a season long project designed to remove 265,000 cubic yards (approximately 10% of the project total) of sediments from 88 acres of the river bottom. This phase is a full scale “test” to determine if the project can meet the strict performance standards and will be followed by an independent peer review. After, the EPA will determine if changes to the standards, design, or scope should occur. Phase 2 is the remainder of the project and is currently designed to be completed in five additional dredging seasons.

Phase 1 was implemented from May 15, 2009, to November 15, 2009. An overview of the project approach will be discussed and the results of Phase 1 of the project reviewed.