



Upcoming Activities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is overseeing work to systematically take apart, or deconstruct, the Powerhouse and Allen Mill structures in Hudson Falls, New York.

In July 2022, EPA reached an agreement with Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC), which is owned by National Grid, and with General Electric Company (GE) to dismantle the buildings. The owner of the property, NMPC, is taking down the buildings due to their deteriorated condition. The New York State Historic Preservation Office has determined that no historic properties, including archaeological and/or historic resources, will be affected by this work.



The Allen Mill borders the former GE Hudson Falls plant site. The Powerhouse is located immediately downstream from the Allen Mill. Due to historical operations at the former GE plant site, polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination remains in the bedrock at the GE Hudson Falls plant site, and potentially in the soil near the Powerhouse and Allen Mill buildings.

Because the deconstruction work will disturb the rock and soil around the buildings, these activities have the potential to cause a release of PCBs into the Hudson River. As part of the legal agreement with the companies, the buildings will be carefully dismantled. NMPC and GE will also pay EPA's costs for planning and overseeing the work.

The Powerhouse deconstruction work is scheduled to begin in early August 2022. The work will begin with the Powerhouse and continue with the Allen Mill in the future. If the Powerhouse work cannot be completed this season, it will be suspended during the winter months and will begin again in spring 2023.

Deconstruction Work

The Powerhouse deconstruction will include removing the structure, including interior and exterior walls, the roof system, structural steel, concrete supports, the main floor concrete slab and equipment. The work may also include minor earthwork, such as removing and backfilling soil. NMPC and GE will remove an estimated 5,100 tons of material. The material will be disposed offsite at EPA-approved facilities.

Environmental Monitoring

Under the terms of the legal agreement, NMPC and GE are required to submit detailed plans to EPA outlining how the structures will be taken down safely, with measures in place to reduce the potential for a release of hazardous substances into the river. The plans include air, surface water and groundwater monitoring.

NMPC and GE developed a Community Air Monitoring Plan which includes a description of the air monitoring approach and sampling methods at the site. That information will be used to adjust the work to prevent air impacts to the surrounding community from site contaminants and dust. They will sample for airborne PCBs and monitor vapors to assess air quality. PCB monitoring stations will be positioned between the project work limits and the surrounding community.

NMPC and GE also developed an Environmental Monitoring Plan that outlines the monitoring program. In addition, the ongoing environmental operations and monitoring associated with the former GE Hudson Falls plant will continue. Under the Environmental Monitoring Plan, they will collect groundwater samples regularly from onsite groundwater monitoring wells and in the Hudson River, downstream of the work. Measures will be in place to prevent a release of contamination into the river. Response measures will be implemented in the event of a release.

The Community Air Monitoring Plan, Environmental Monitoring Plan and project design are being developed and will be available on EPA's site webpage: <https://response.epa.gov/HudsonFalls>.

Site Background

The Allen Mill is a former textile mill that was constructed in the mid-1800s and borders the former GE Hudson Falls facility. The Powerhouse, which is immediately downstream from the Allen Mill, was constructed in 1907 and supplied hydroelectric power to the Mill through a system of raceways and tunnels that were excavated into the bedrock.

During a 30-year period ending in 1977, PCBs were discharged into the Hudson River from GE's two capacitor manufacturing facilities located in Fort Edward and Hudson Falls, New York. PCB releases from the plants caused significant surface and below-ground contamination. The former GE Fort Edward and Hudson Falls plant sites are being addressed under New York State's Superfund program. Under New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) oversight, a tunnel drain collection system was installed at the Hudson Falls site in 2007-2009, to stop the migration of site PCBs to the river. GE performed dredging in the upper Hudson River to remove PCB-contaminated river sediment, under EPA oversight, between 2009-2015. In addition, DEC directed GE to undertake an extensive soil remedial program at the Hudson Falls site, which removed contaminated soil down to bedrock. PCB contamination remains in the bedrock and is being controlled by the tunnel drain collection system and the groundwater extraction and treatment system operating at the GE Hudson Falls facility.

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