

Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference:

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2:20pm

**Hudson River Natural Resource Damage Assessment: Injury Assessment and Restoration Planning**

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The Hudson River has been heavily contaminated with PCBs from General Electric (GE) since the 1940s. Nearly two-thirds (about 200 miles) of the Hudson River has been contaminated by PCBs, from Hudson Falls to the Battery in New York City and beyond. PCBs move throughout the environment and are found in river sediments, river water, groundwater, on the river's floodplain, and in the animals that live throughout the river and its floodplain. Living resources at every level of the Hudson River's aquatic, terrestrial, and wetland-based food chains are contaminated with PCBs. The Hudson River Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) process began in 1997 and is ongoing. Natural resource damage assessments are carried out to make sure that polluters compensate the public for the loss of natural resources and the services they provide. The Hudson River Natural Resource Trustees – the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and New York State – continue to assess how releases of PCBs from the General Electric Company (GE) plants at Fort Edward and Hudson Falls, New York harm the Hudson River's natural resources. The goal of the Hudson River NRDA is to restore injured natural resources. Assessment and restoration planning actions focus on ensuring the fullest restoration of those injured natural resources. This presentation will provide an update on injury assessment and restoration planning activities.