

NEW YORKERS DESERVE A CLEANER, HEALTHIER HUDSON RIVER

General Electric dumped millions of pounds of toxic Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) –contaminating a 200-mile stretch of the Hudson from upriver factories to New York Harbor. PCBs cause cancer and remain in the environment for many decades.

For over 70 years, the Hudson River has been contaminated with toxic chemicals that harm communities, habitat and wildlife, endanger public health, and compromise peoples' ability to safely enjoy the Hudson River and waterfronts. Federal law requires the polluter to pay for the devastating impacts its contamination has had on our communities for decades and restore the health of our river. This process is known as natural resource damage assessment or NRDA.



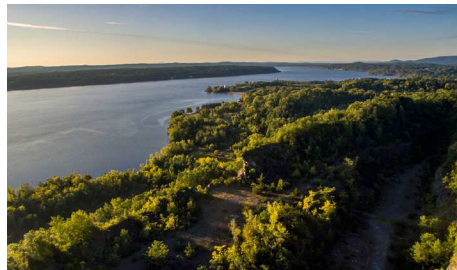
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

PCB contamination has put vulnerable New Yorkers, including low-income people and communities of color, at risk. Despite posted advisories, these communities rely on and continue to eat the fish and drink the water from the Hudson River.



ECONOMIC IMPACT

PCB contamination has led to a loss in tourism revenue and prevented deep draft commercial shipping on the Champlain Canal, greatly impacting business in the region.



HEALTH OF THE RIVER

Wildlife that lives in and around the Hudson is essential to the health of our ecosystem, and PCB contamination is a direct risk to wildlife populations in the Hudson.



PUBLIC HEALTH

Communities along the Hudson depend on the River for drinking water. Due to PCB contamination, upwards of \$10 million is spent each year just to ensure the water is safe to drink. Contamination has also created a loss of services, from outdoor recreation space to tourism.











PCBS ARE A RISK TO OUR COMMUNITY.

For songbird species, like chickadees, PCBs affect parts of the developing brain responsible for song, impacting their ability to sing—a critical way they communicate and mate.

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While the EPA oversaw limited dredging of hotspots in the Upper Hudson from 2009 to 2015, significant amounts of these toxins remain in the river’s water sediment and wildlife. **In a new report, experts estimate that after 70 years of devastating harm, General Electric could owe our communities up to \$11.4 billion in natural resource damages. In addition, restoration dredging is critical to reducing future harm to the river’s ecosystem and could cost as much as \$10.7 billion.**


The 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico provides a good baseline comparison for consideration of damages in the Hudson. However, PCBs are far more toxic and difficult to clean up than oil, requiring more time and money to address the damages caused to the river.

	HUDSON RIVER PCBs	VS.	DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL
	Decades of contamination		Three months of contamination
	Highly persistent in the environment		Degradation in months to years
	Highly toxic		Oil less toxic than PCBs
	Biomagnification in food web		Oil metabolized by organisms
	Decades of exposure		Months of exposure
	Fisheries injuries & closures for decades		Fisheries recovered by 8 years
	Extensive drinking water effects		No drinking water effects
	\$11.4 billion (estimated) \$22.1 billion (including dredging)		\$9.2 billion (settled)

A fair Hudson River NRD settlement will benefit all who live along and enjoy the majestic Hudson River. With a robust settlement, we will be able to:



/ FUND
Fund additional cleanup to make fish safe to eat



/ CREATE
Create a swimmable Hudson and safe, public access sites for recreation and ecotourism



/ RESUME
Resume commercial fishing, unrestricted recreational fishing and deep-draft shipping on the Champlain Canal