



June 22, 2016

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN
Pownal Dam Sediment Cleanup, North Pownal, Vermont
June 2016**

Overview

The purpose of the Community Relations Plan (CRP) is to describe Hoosic River Hydro's strategy to address the needs and concerns of interested parties, North Pownal residents, and neighbors affected by the proposed removal of environmental contamination present in sediments upstream of the Pownal Dam.

The CRP outlines how Hoosic River Hydro has involved, and will continue to involve, affected residents, Town officials and local organizations in the decision-making process regarding the environmental cleanup at the site. The success of the environmental cleanup and subsequent redevelopment of the Pownal Dam hinges on informed citizen involvement in each step of the cleanup process.

Spokesperson and Information Repository

The spokesperson for this project is Bill Scully of Hoosic River Hydro. Staff from Lincoln Applied Geology have been coordinating environmental site assessment and remediation planning at the site and will assist with communicating the results of these studies to the public. Contact information is as follows:

Bill Scully
Managing Director
Hoosic River Hydro & Recurrent Group
802.379.2469
wfscully@gmail.com

Beth Erickson
Senior Project Manager
Lincoln Applied Geology
802.453.4384
berickson@lagvt.com

Copies of all environmental assessment reports and the corrective action plan are located at the offices of Lincoln Applied Geology in Lincoln, Vermont. Electronic copies can be emailed to any interested parties. All public meetings will be held at the Town of Pownal, Selectman's Office @ 467 Center St., Pownal, VT 05261.

Site Description

The Pownal Dam is located in North Pownal, Vermont. The dam supplied power to the former Pownal Tannery. The intake was constructed in 1955 to replace an existing dam intake structure. The Pownal Tannery operated from the 1930s to the 1988. It later filed for bankruptcy. With the exception of a landfill located up-gradient of the dam, the majority of tannery operations and structures were located downstream of the dam. Lagoons were located further downstream of the former tannery structures. Part of the former Pownal Tannery is listed on the EPA's National Priorities List (NPL), but the dam and hydroelectric works is not listed on any searched database. The dam site is owned by the Town of Pownal.

The dam is accessible from an unpaved path along the railroad tracks adjacent to the Hoosic River. The access path originates off of Furlong Road.

History

The dam formerly generated power for the former Pownal Tannery, and though the exemption has been valid, has been inactive for many years. Fine-grained sediment has accumulated in the sediment intake structure and behind the dam, which contains PCBs, PAHs, and metals. The dam is located upstream of the former tannery operations and buildings, with the exception of the tannery landfill which was located upstream. Therefore, it is likely that the contaminated sediments originated offsite. As stated in the Johnson Company's 2009 Phase I ESA, potential up-gradient sources included the Barlow Gravel Pit and General Cable in Pownal, Vermont, or Sprague Electric in North Adams, Massachusetts.

PCBs and metals were highest in deeper sediments which will not be disturbed by the redevelopment of the dam. Sediments which are slated for removal contain some contaminants, such as PAHs, in excess of Vermont's soil standards, which is why they cannot be considered clean fill. They also contain PCBs less than 1 part per million.

The Corrective Action Plan includes temporarily stockpiling any excavated sediment and then shipping it offsite to a landfill.

Nature of Threat to Public Health and Environment

Generally, sediments that will be excavated are contaminated with PAHs, metals, and low levels of PCBs. Currently, access to sediments is restricted and the public is not exposed to them.

A Corrective Action Plan addresses risk posed by the contamination during construction and subsequent occupancy by specifying appropriate engineering measures to minimize exposure during construction and occupancy.

Proposed Remediation

The CAP details the sediment excavation, stockpiling, and subsequent shipping offsite. All sediment will be properly managed and not accessible to the public during the duration of the project. It will then be shipped offsite for disposal.

Corrective action is necessary because sediment must be removed to redevelop the dam, but the sediment should not be left onsite due to contaminant levels.

The final result will be a newly designed and landscaped parking lot and green-space. The design will increase pedestrian safety and make the entire campus more accessible.

Chronology of Community Involvement

After the CAP was completed, a public meeting was announced to the public to discuss the cleanup plan and funding. A notice was placed in the Bennington Banner and a copy of the plan can be found at the Town of Pownal- Selectmen's Office. The meeting will take place at the Town of Pownal- Selectman's office, 467 Center St, Pownal, VT 05261 on June 28, 2016 at 11 am.

Copies of the Corrective Action Plan are available for review at the Pownal Town office, and at the offices of Lincoln Applied Geology. The Corrective Action Plan can be viewed in person during normal business hours. It can also be viewed on Hoosic River Hydro's website (<https://hoosicriverhydro.com/>).

The Corrective Action Plan was approved by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation on June 2, 2016, and there is a 30 day public comment period, which ends July 2, 2016. Comments will be accepted at the public meeting on June 28, via email to matthew.becker@vermont.gov or via US Mail to Matt Becker, VT DEC 1 National Life Drive, Main 2, Montpelier, VT 053620-3520. Comments can also be submitted to berickson@lagvt.com or via US Mail to Beth Erickson, Lincoln Applied Geology, 163 Revell Drive, Lincoln, VT 05443. If submitting comments by US Mail, please leave enough time for normal post office delivery on or before July 2, 2016.

The work described in the Corrective Action Plan is expected to begin by late July, 2016, and to be completed by October, 2016. Hoosic River Hydro LLC is permitted to be in the river until October 1, 2016. An additional 30 days is granted for dewatering and transporting contaminated sediments.

Timeline:

CAP Public Comment Period Start Date: June 2, 2016

CAP Public Meeting: June 28, 2016 11 am, Pownal Town Offices

Public Comment Period Ends: July 2, 2016

Proposed Cleanup Start Date: July 27, 2016

Clean Up completion date: November 1, 2016 (indicating the additional 30 days for de-watering)

Public Meeting to discuss cleanup on or about July 22, 2016

Key Community Concerns:

There have been no expressed community concerns for this portion of the clean-up. Access to the site is already restricted to the public.

To keep the public updated to any changes on site, Hoosic River Hydro LLC has posted the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) and the Community Relations Plan (CRP) on its website (<https://hoosicriverhydro.com/>). All revisions to documentation can be found on the website. Additional Information will be available by emailing Bill Scully, wfscully@gmail.com.

Continued Community Involvement

Hoosic River Hydro LLC will continue to work with the Town of Pownal and any other interested parties. Beth Erickson will continue to present updates through public notices, e-mail notifications, and on-site meetings until the project has been completed, including but not limited to a public meeting to discuss clean-up on or around July, 22 2016.