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Dear Peconic River Working Group:

This letter recalls some highlights from our March 26 meeting, and announces our next standing meeting.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR MARCH 26 MEETING

Skip Medeiros, the Peconic River Group Manager opened the meeting by reviewing a photo-chronology of the pilot studies. The photo chronology began on March 4 when many members of the working group got a first-hand tour of the pilot study areas. The following day, work commenced. Skip noted that sediment excavation in Area D was already complete and that Area A was about 85% complete.



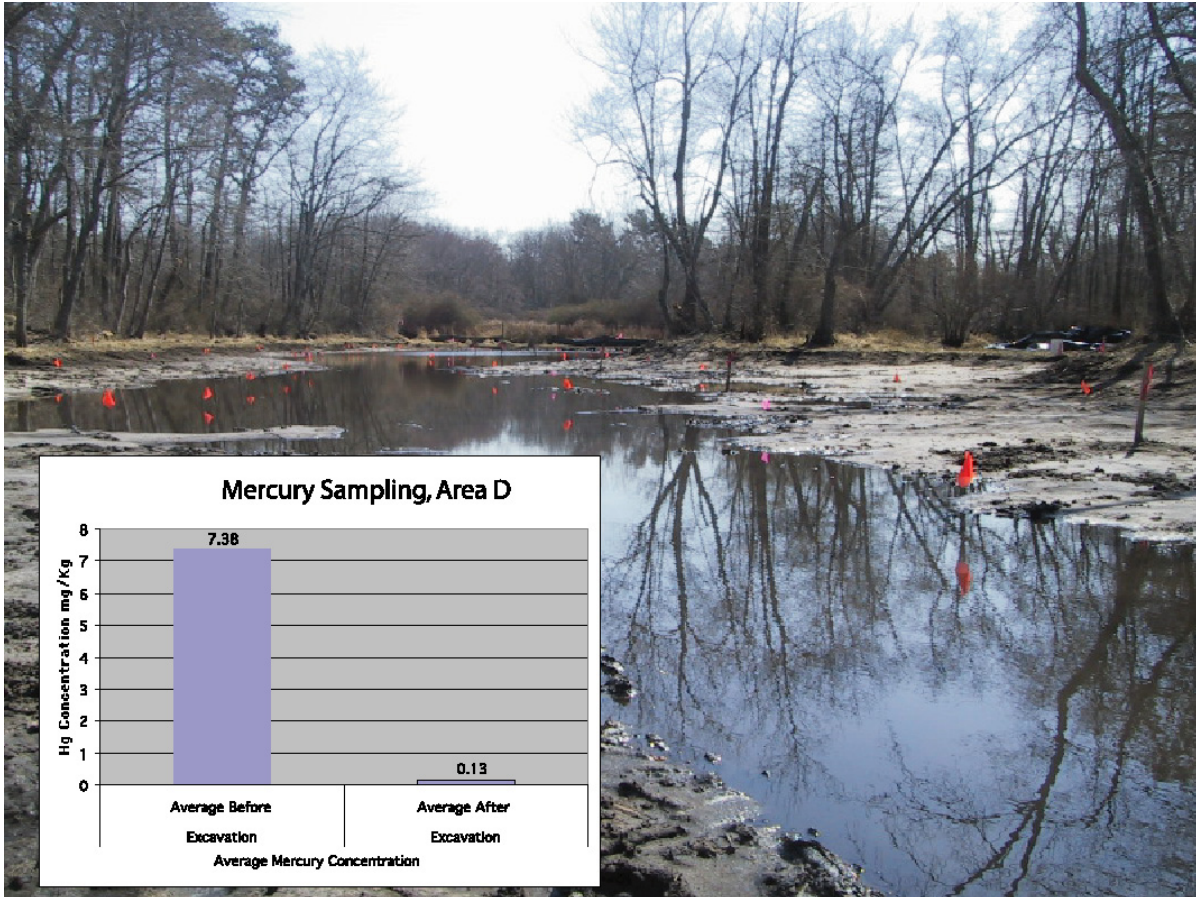
One of the pictures that Skip showed to the working group: Taken on March 9, the picture shows workers reconstructing the river channel following excavation of sediment. In the background, an excavator continues removing contaminated sediment from the central stockpile.

Skip continued with an update on risk assessment.

- Working group members asked for the status on a Fish Data report from the New York State Department of Health (DOH) and whether such data could be factored into the risk assessment. Skip explained that the data would be used in the risk assessment. When the State DOH releases the report, he will provide a copy to the working group.
- The Lab and DOE continue to work with the regulators on resolving the risk assessment protocols. A discussion took place about making the scenarios simpler, reducing the number of them, and presenting similar information to the CAC.

The meeting continued with Kevin Shaw, project manager, leading a discussion on preliminary sampling results following sediment removal. Kevin displayed a map of the sampling points that indicated contaminant levels before and after-excitation. The results showed that the pilot study work significantly decreased the contaminants. Sampling results were only available for Area D, but the results were a promising indicator of what could be expected for Area A.

Kevin also displayed a chart showing the reduction of mercury, a principal contaminant, in Area D.



Sampling Results: One of the slides that Kevin displayed for the working group showing the reduction in concentration of Mercury, one of the principal contaminants.

- Several samples from Area D were split with the Suffolk County Department of Health Services.

Kevin continued with a discussion of the final revegetation plan.

- An update on the CAC suggestion that called for an area of a sand/gravel mixture in addition to an area of topsoil/compost mixture was provided. The DEC, the agency that issued the permit equivalency to conduct the pilot-study work, said that if the topsoil/compost mixture does not work, the DEC would then consider other options. During sediment removal at Area D, the total amount of organic carbon in the soil was significantly reduced. Based on the DEC's extensive experience with constructed wetlands on Long Island, the topsoil/compost mixture helps to replace the lost organic matter needed for plant growth. Kevin also noted that the results from testing the topsoil were very favorable. Three suppliers were originally being considered. Two suppliers met the specifications.
- To increase the survival rate of the cover crop, the revegetation team will double the amount of seed to be initially distributed.
- The DEC does not want to preclude the use of chemical control of Phragmites through the application of Rodeo (Glyphosate). The revegetation plan notes that the use of chemical control is feasible but not preferred, and the Lab does not expect to use the technique. If it does become necessary, the required permitting and other disclosure activities will have to be done.

OUR NEXT STANDING MEETING

Our next standing meeting will take place on April 23, 2002 from 6:30-8:30pm here at Brookhaven National Laboratory, in Berkner Hall, Room "B".

PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE APRIL 23 MEETING

- Review of revised risk assessment protocols
- Fish Data
- Pilot-study status, including revegetation status

VISIT YOUR WEBSITE

The Peconic River Working Group Website is set up and can be accessed over the Internet at: <http://www.bnl.gov/erd/peconic/WorkingGroup/peconicgroup.html>

Thank you once again for participating on the Peconic River Working Group. If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience:

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