CERCLA Five-Year Review

- Five-year reviews are required by EPA and NYSDEC under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process as long as contaminants remain on the site.
- Intent is to evaluate the implementation and performance of cleanup remedies and whether they continue to remain protective of human health and environment.
- First two site-wide reviews issued July 2006 and March 2011.
  - Addendum issued November 2011 to address regulator comments (no changes to the March 2011 document).
  - Conclusions/Recommendations from 2011 included:
    - Soil cleanup objectives met, and groundwater systems functioning as intended to meet cleanup goals.
    - Exposure pathways are being controlled.
    - Continue health & safety focus of workers during BGRR bioshield removal.
    - Complete remaining work at BGRR (engineered cap), HFBR (ongoing), former Hazardous Waste Management Facility (HWMF) perimeter soil.
CERCLA Five-Year Review

Short Video: Getting to Know the Five Year Review, A Guide for Communities Near Federal Facilities

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VguoeVT4Fjl
2016 CERCLA Five-Year Review

- The third Site-wide Review will evaluate all cleanup remedies for groundwater, soil, Peconic River sediment, BGRR, HFBR, and g-2 tritium plume, BLIP, and USTs

- Protectiveness assessment includes three questions
  - Is the remedy functioning as intended by the decision documents?
    - Is it working?
    - Opportunities for optimization, new technologies?
  - Are the exposure assumptions, toxicity data, cleanup levels, and remedial action objectives used at the time of the remedy selection still valid?
    - Have standards changed?
  - Has any other information come to light that could call into question the protectiveness of the remedy?
    - Has there been a land use change, new ecological risk?

- We rely on annual Groundwater Status and Site Environmental Reports, and institutional control evaluations as a basis for the Review
2016 CERCLA Five-Year Review

- **Areas of particular focus**
  - Former Hazardous Waste Management Facility elevated Sr-90 in groundwater
  - Potential Sr-90 continuing sources at BGRR, former Waste Concentration Facility, former Chemical Holes (impacting system shut down)
  - Peconic River elevated mercury in sediment at on-site Area WC-06

- **Next steps**
  - Input from CAC (tonight)
  - Perform interviews and site inspections (underway)
  - Technical assessment for each remedy, and recommendations
  - Regulator review
  - CAC/BER update
  - Public availability
2016 CERCLA Five-Year Review

Schedule
- Data review and prepare report – Fall/Winter 2015
- DOE review - Early 2016
- Draft report to regulators and CAC update - Late Spring 2016
- Public Availability - Fall 2016
Questions for CAC input:

- What is your overall impression of BNL’s cleanup and do you feel well informed about the cleanup activities and progress?

- Are there any specific aspects of the cleanup that you feel should be of particular focus during the review? (e.g. Records of Decision, cleanup goals, community input, etc.)

- Do you feel confident in BNL and DOE’s management of the long-term cleanup operations for the site?

- Do you have any comments, suggestions, or recommendations regarding BNL/DOE’s management and communications of the cleanup?