GE Agrees to Clean Up Toxic Wastes at 7 Sites In the Hudson Valley

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL *Staff Reporter*

ALBANY, N.Y.—General Electric Co. agreed to pay to clean up toxic chemical wastes at seven dumping sites in the upper Hudson Valley.

New York State's environmental conservation agency predicted the cleanup will cost GE at least $30 million. The company declined to specify the cost until engineering studies are completed.

Mary Kadlecek, a conservation official, said GE will be required to pay for cleaning up 46,000 tons of polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, and other toxic wastes. They were generated by the company's manufacturing operations and dumped by contract haulers,she said.

State officials said the settlement was both the most extensive of its kind in New York and the first in which a company has agreed to pay for cleaning up hazardous wastes dumped over many years.

PCBs, formerly used to make electrical equipment, are suspected cancer-causing agents.

Under the settlement, GE will start the cleanup within one year of the plan's approval by the state and will monitor the sites for 30 years thereafter.

The company will pay full cleanup costs at four dumping sites that it used exclusively and partial costs at the other sites, which GE shared with other companies.

The state said it will require those other companies to pay their share of the costs.

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