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**PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY**  
**HUDSON RIVER PCB REASSESSMENT RI/FS**  
**EPA WORK ASSIGNMENT NO. 013-2N84**

**JANUARY 1991**



**REGION II**  
**ALTERNATIVE REMEDIAL CONTRACTING STRATEGY (ARCS)**  
**FOR**  
**HAZARDOUS WASTE REMEDIAL SERVICES**

**EPA Contract No. 68-S9-2001**

**TAMS CONSULTANTS, Inc.**

HRP 001 0227

**TAMS CONSULTANTS, INC.**  
**PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY**  
**HUDSON RIVER PCB REASSESSMENT RI/FS**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

On December 13, 1990, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) held a public meeting at the Saratoga Springs City Center, Saratoga Springs, NY. The Agency is conducting a Reassessment Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study to reevaluate remedial alternatives for PCB-contaminated sediments at the Hudson River Superfund site. The purpose of the public meeting was to discuss the Scope of Work for this project.

Press releases announcing the meeting were sent to over 450 private citizens, citizen groups, government representatives, environmental interest groups, and radio and television stations. The press release contained the locations of ten information repositories where documentation on the project could be reviewed prior to the meeting. Approximately 135 people attended the meeting at the City Center.

Representing EPA were Kathy Callahan, Deputy Director, Emergency and Remedial Response Division, Doug Tomchuk, Project Manager, Emergency and Remedial Response Division, and Lillian Johnson, Chief of the EPA Region II Community Relations Staff.

The public meeting summary includes:

- Site history
- Community involvement overview
- Meeting presentations summary
- Question and answer summary
- Supporting appendices

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## 2. SITE HISTORY

The primary area under consideration for the reassessment is the approximate 40-mile reach of river between Hudson Falls, New York, and the Federal Dam at Troy. However, the effects of the contaminated sediments on the lower Hudson (estuary) must also be considered. The site includes contaminated river bottom sediments and five discrete sediment deposits called remnant deposits. The sediments and remnant deposits are contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), which studies show to have toxic effects on humans and animals. The PCBs bioaccumulate in the fatty tissues of living creatures. Animals near the top of the food chain have higher concentrations of the contaminant. In the case of the Hudson River, the health risk of primary concern is associated with accumulation of PCBs in the human body through ingestion of contaminated fish.

PCBs are generally considered to be non-volatile, and because of this chemical and thermal stability, polychlorinated biphenyls are used as insulating fluids in industrial electrical systems. During a 30-year period ending in 1977, it is estimated that up to 1.1 million pounds of PCBs were discharged into the Hudson River from two General Electric Company (GE) capacitor manufacturing plants located in Fort Edward and Hudson Falls, New York. Discharged PCBs adhered to the sediments in the bottom of the river and accumulated in large areas behind the Fort Edward Dam. The removal of the dam in 1973 and two subsequent instances of severe spring flooding caused much PCB-contaminated sediment to wash downstream.

Action brought against GE by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) in 1975 resulted in a \$7 million program for the investigation of PCBs and the development of methods to reduce or remove the threat of PCB contamination. Subsequent sediment surveys revealed that the most extensive contamination was confined to 40 "hot spots" (areas with PCB concentrations of 50 micrograms of PCB per kilogram of sediment, or greater) located in approximately a 40-mile stretch of the river between Fort Edward and Albany, and to five exposed remnant deposits located north of the former Fort Edward Dam site.

In 1976, the NYSDEC banned all fishing on the upper Hudson River, from Albany north through Fort Edward, because PCB contamination had been detected in Hudson River fish. The ban is still in effect today. Shortly thereafter, the NYSDEC proposed a partial cleanup of the river by dredging selected PCB hot spots and containing the contaminated material in a secure upland containment facility, and in fact some highly contaminated sediments were removed in 1978 and placed in a secure encapsulation site in Moreau.

In the mid-1980s, the site history actually diverged into two projects. One was the Hudson River PCB Reclamation Demonstration Project, often called simply the "Demonstration Project." The second was the implementation of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) Record of Decision (ROD), including the containment of the remnant deposits and a treatability study of the Town of Waterford's water treatment plant.

## **2.1 The Hudson River PCB Reclamation Demonstration Project (The Demonstration Project)**

The purpose of the Hudson River PCB Reclamation Demonstration Project was to provide funds for the demonstration of technologies, particularly dredging, that would clean up the contamination in the river sediments without causing further PCB migration and pollution. Under a 1980 amendment to existing Clean Water Act (CWA) legislation, funds up to \$20 million could be authorized by the EPA Administrator if the Administrator determined that funds were otherwise unavailable under the CWA or the then-proposed Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980. In accordance with this amendment, Congress authorized the EPA to make grants to the NYSDEC for the Reclamation Demonstration Project.

In December 1982, a Record of Decision was signed in which the EPA Administrator determined that funds for addressing the problem of PCB contamination in the Hudson were available under the newly-created CERCLA, also known as Superfund, not the CWA, and that the problem rated sufficiently high to be considered for inclusion on the National Priorities List (NPL). Under Superfund, a Remedial Action Master Plan (RAMP) was initiated to evaluate all available information and assess feasible remedial options. Before the RAMP was completed, the Hudson River PCB Site was in fact placed on the EPA's proposed NPL, and, as a result, became eligible for CERCLA funding. The RAMP was subsequently changed to a Feasibility Study (FS) which was finalized in 1984.

New York State, the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, and other environmental groups, however, filed suit to compel the EPA to award the balance of the \$20 million stipulated under Section 116 of the CWA so the demonstration project could proceed. In May 1984, EPA signed a settlement agreement whereby EPA would make a grant to New York State of approximately \$18 million for dredging and disposal of PCBs if the state obtained an acceptable disposal site with all the necessary state and federal permits within three years. Although the Demonstration Project was never completed in accordance with this settlement agreement and these monies have since reverted to New York State wastewater treatment projects, NYSDEC at that time proceeded with its Project plans and its investigation of potential containment sites.

### **2.1.1 The Hudson River PCB Project Action Plan**

In 1987 DEC Commissioner Thomas Jorling nullified land use/zoning regulations as a consideration in approving or denying applications for construction of hazardous waste disposal facilities. In 1989 he directed the DEC Project Sponsor Group (PSG) to consider a site four miles south of Fort Edward which had previously been rejected on the basis of its agricultural zoning status. Commissioner Jorling favored a project of larger scope than previously intended, which would remediate as much of the PCBs in the Upper Hudson as practicable.

The result of the PSG's analysis was the Hudson River PCB Project Action Plan, issued in December 1989, at the same time the USEPA decided to reassess the No Action portion of the 1984 ROD. This plan "discusses the foundations for the scope and breadth of a comprehensive cleanup effort; evaluates potential remedial actions and alternative technologies; and presents a schedule for carrying out the rescoped Project (Hudson River PCB Action Plan, 1989)."

The proposed schedule for the project, which is predicated on a 2-year state and federal approval process and entails dredging approximately 3 million cubic yards of sediment from various sites at a 1989 cost of \$280 million, anticipated the completion of studies, facility design, and Siting Board application/hearing processes between 1990 and 1993, issuance of a Notice to Proceed with site construction in May 1994, initial dredging in 1995, and Project closure by the end of 2000. NYSDEC's Project Sponsor Group undertook the management of the entire effort, which today continues to be based upon the 1989 Project Action Plan.

## **2.2 Implementation of the CERCLA ROD**

### **2.2.1 Containment of the Remnant Deposits**

In September 1984 a ROD was signed for the Hudson River PCB site, addressing four remnant deposits and the river sediments. The ROD reflected EPA's decision for in-place containment, or capping, of the four remnant deposit areas with low permeability materials, stabilization of the associated riverbanks, and revegetation of the areas. This was considered an interim remedy and can be reevaluated in the future based upon changes in circumstances and/or advances in technology for treating PCBs.

### **2.2.2 The Waterford Water Treatment Plant Treatability Study**

Part of the 1984 ROD was the decision to perform a treatability study to evaluate the effectiveness of the Town of Waterford's water treatment plant in removing PCBs from Hudson River water. The Town of Waterford is located 40 miles south

of the remnant deposits and was selected for evaluation because it is the northernmost community downstream of the site that receives its water supply directly from the Hudson River. The final report by Metcalf and Eddy was issued in June 1990. Findings indicated that PCB levels in the water supplied by the Waterford Water Works did in fact meet standards applied to public water supplies.

### **2.3 The Reassessment RI/FS**

The 1984 ROD which mandated in-place containment of the remnant deposits and the Waterford Water Treatability Study also delivered a No Action alternative recommendation under Superfund for the river sediments. The intent was to reassess possible treatment methods in the future based on what may have been demonstrated in the Hudson River PCB Reclamation Demonstration Project and/or on any further development of sediment dredging techniques.

In her opening presentation at the public meeting, Kathy Callahan, EPA Emergency and Remedial Response Division Director, reviewed the reasons for EPA's 1989 decision to undertake a reassessment of the No Action alternative. Based on that decision, in July 1990 TAMS Consultants, Inc. was assigned under the Alternative Remedial Contracting Strategy (ARCS) program to provide a Scope of Work (SOW) for the Hudson River PCB Reassessment RI/FS. That Scope of Work was submitted to EPA in December 1990 and reviewed for the public by EPA at the public meeting on December 13, 1990, which is addressed in this document.

### **3. HISTORY OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

The Hudson River PCB contamination is generally viewed as one overall problem, despite the number of separate activities which have taken place. Therefore, the history of community involvement spans 16 years and encompasses all events pertaining to the PCB issue since 1975.

The first public concern was triggered in that year by studies revealing high levels of PCBs in Hudson River fish, a common item in local diets and a key part of the northeastern commercial fishing industry. These studies indicated a potential health risk from exposure to PCBs at those levels. Subsequent bans and advisories on commercial and sport fishing heightened concern, not only over personal health but also over the adverse affect on all parts of the economy dependent upon fishing and the recreational use of the river.

In addition to local citizen interest, media accounts of PCB problems locally and in other parts of the state drew the attention of national groups. Fishing and sporting associations and unions affected by the fishing restrictions began to want to participate in plans to clean up the river. Environmental groups began to heighten their involvement and local, state, and federal officials demonstrated an active interest. Also, committees with public membership were organized. One, the Hudson River PCB Settlement Advisory Committee made up of experts in the fields of biology, health, hydrology, and geology, was formed in the mid-1970s to advise the NYSDEC Commissioner on remediation of the Hudson River and is still involved.

In the early 1980s, public interest escalated over the Hudson River PCB Reclamation Demonstration Project, the federally-funded dredging and encapsulation demonstration described in Section 2.1. The PCB Settlement Advisory Committee, NYSDEC, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, and other agencies and groups supported the dredging and encapsulation; many residents and interest groups opposed it. One such group is a leading citizen environmental group called "Citizen Environmentalists Against Sludge Encapsulation (C.E.A.S.E.)," which was formed in 1981 to fight the location of an encapsulation site in Fort Edward and continues to be active today.

In the mid to late 1980s when the Waterford Treatability Study was performed and capping was chosen as the interim remedy for the remnant deposits, the interest level moderated somewhat, though it was by no means any less a factor in the project process. The public, however, did not feel compelled to oppose either project. In 1987, public interest was again heightened when the NYSDEC Project Sponsor Group reapplied for dredging and encapsulation permits. DEC launched



a rather vigorous public involvement program in an attempt to accommodate the public's desire for information and involvement.

The current Reassessment RI/FS has already generated considerable interest. In addition to the fact that alternative remedies which have been the objects of previous concern are still under consideration as part of the reassessment study, a high degree of public dissatisfaction and frustration over the handling of the river's PCB problem during the past decade has made some of the public cautious in its reception of current efforts and determined to follow the project closely. A primary concern is that the interests of the agricultural community and of residents and groups outside the immediate 40-mile PCB site area be adequately represented. Chapter 5 reflects the specific concerns and questions raised by the attendees at the December 13, 1990, public meeting, and written statements volunteered by three organizations can be found in Appendix C.

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#### **4. MEETING PRESENTATIONS SUMMARY**

Lillian Johnson, Chief of the USEPA Region II Community Relations staff, opened the meeting and introduced Kathy Callahan, Deputy Director in the Emergency and Remedial Response Division.

- 4.1** Ms. Callahan began the evening by describing the Superfund process and summarizing the history of the Hudson River Superfund site itself. Before she began her presentation, however, Ms. Callahan, as she said, "set a context" for the EPA presentations that evening.

"EPA does not have any preconceptions about a remedy for the Hudson River PCB site, dredging or otherwise," she stated. "We are here to begin a reassessment of our previous decisions under Superfund, and we will do this with an open, scientific approach."

The Comprehensive Environmental, Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) established the Superfund program, permitting, among its several hazardous waste clean-up provisions, funds for long-term remediation of contaminated sites evaluated as serious enough to be on the National Priorities List.

The process to address contamination for each site on the NPL includes several steps:

- The Remedial Investigation (RI), which characterizes the nature and extent of the contamination at the site;
- The Feasibility Study (FS), in which potential remediation alternatives are studied and evaluated;
- Issuance of a proposed plan containing the recommended remedial action, followed by a minimum 30-day period to allow for public comment on the proposed plan;
- Preparation of a Responsiveness Summary addressing all comments received during the public comment period;
- Selection of a remedy by the EPA Regional Administration based on recommendations made in the Feasibility Study, comments received during the public comment period, various criteria established in legislation, and compliance with applicable standards from other environmental programs; and

- Design and implementation of the selected remedy, with EPA empowered to ensure the participation of identified responsible parties wherever possible.

Ms. Callahan pointed out that "Superfund legislation and EPA policy require and promote opportunities for public input" throughout the process.

After summarizing the site history, which can be reviewed in Chapter 2 of this document. Ms. Callahan proceeded to discuss the reasons EPA is undertaking the current reassessment (Appendix B, Section 1). A letter from NYSDEC to EPA in July 1989 requested reconsideration of the No Action alternative in the 1984 ROD with respect to the river sediments. EPA concurred with reassessment of the interim No Action remedy, based on the recommendation in the 1984 ROD that called for reassessment in the future if there were advances in dredging and treatment technologies. Additionally, the Demonstration Project originally proposed by DEC was not proceeding, and the action recommended by DEC in the 1989 Project Action Plan went beyond the scope of that Project. Finally, 1986 amendments to Superfund and EPA policy call for five-year review by EPA of sites where remedies which were implemented involved contaminants remaining on-site.

Ms. Callahan closed by reaffirming EPA's commitment to an approach that is open and scientifically grounded. Phase One of the study will, among other activities, look at available data and determine what additional field work is necessary in Phase Two. EPA intends to "look at the full range of practical solutions" and "seek the best scientific advice on what those solutions are," Ms. Callahan stated.

"Finally, we recognize how important this issue is to New Yorkers and what a great impact our decision will have on those who live near the river, who make their livelihood from it or who use it for recreation. Therefore, we will invite the widest degree of public involvement in the process that we can. We want to hear from all sides, and we want to make sure everyone who is interested has an opportunity to participate fully in the decision-making process," she concluded.

#### **4.2 Reassessment Study Summary**

Doug Tomchuk summarized the activities EPA intends to perform in the reassessment study as described in the Scope of Work. (Copies of the Scope of Work were available for the audience.)

In stating the re-evaluation of the 1984 No Action decision as the objective of the study, Mr. Tomchuk reiterated Ms. Callahan's assurance that the reassessment is intended to be an unbiased study to assess the full spectrum of remedial action alternatives.

The approach to the reassessment will be phased because of the complex nature of the site. The phased approach will allow the study process to be dynamic, flexible, and responsive to input from all sources, especially the public.

The five-part preliminary reassessment (site characterization, evaluation of environmental regulations pertinent to the site, review of existing data models, development of a sediment transport model, and development of a baseline risk assessment) is the first phase.

Phase 2, further site characterization and analysis, involves field sampling and surveys based on data needs identified in Phase 1, PCB accumulation modeling, review of bioremediation data, analysis of available data from NYSDEC, and a preliminary screening of alternatives.

Final screening of the remedial alternatives for effectiveness, implementability, and cost is done in Phase 3, the Feasibility Study, followed by a detailed evaluation of those alternatives that pass the screening and subsequent issuance of a Reassessment Report. It is expected, based on a preliminary estimate of the extent of field sampling necessary and the time involved, that a draft Reassessment Report will be issued in August, 1992. After the issuance of the proposed plan, there will be a 30-day public comment period. The Record of Decision will follow.

Appendix B, Section 2 contains a copy of the exhibits used in Mr. Tomchuk's presentation.

#### **4.3 Community Interaction Program**

Ms. Johnson explained that because Ann Rychlenski, Community Relations Coordinator for the Hudson River Superfund site, was unable to attend the meeting due to illness, she would review the Community Interaction Program on Ann's behalf. Appendix B, Section 3 contains a copy of the exhibits used in the presentation.

There are several community relations activities normally associated with Superfund sites. These include, among others, community interviews, development of a Community Relations Plan, periodic distribution of fact sheets, public meetings, and opportunities for the public to comment on recommendations. A number of factors pertaining specifically to the Hudson River site, such as geographic size of the site and the high level of public interest, led to the development of an expanded plan called the Community Interaction Program (CIP) for this particular reassessment study.

Four major groups in the CIP - the Government Liaison Group, Citizen Liaison Group, Environmental Interest Liaison Group, and the CIP Steering Committee - are intended to fulfill the nine basic objectives of the program. Among the most important of these objectives is providing the public with an opportunity to voice opinions, ask questions, and exchange information during the study. This dialogue will ensure that the public has input to the reassessment.

Ms. Johnson briefly described the process by which concerns and questions from the Liaison Groups would pass through the Steering Committee to the project Oversight Committee. The Oversight Committee has the responsibility of addressing input from the groups and responding. The Steering Committee ensures that all issues presented are addressed, that adequate and timely responses are returned to the Liaison Groups, and that information is exchanged freely. The Liaison Group Chairpeople and Co-chairpeople are the key members of the CIP Steering Committee.

Ms. Johnson displayed the addresses of the ten information repositories which have been established to house project documents for public review during the reassessment. She also explained the availability of Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) to communities who wished to involve independent consultants in the study on their behalf, and urged anyone interested to call Ann Rychlenski, EPA Community Relations Coordinator.

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## **5. COMMUNITY COMMENTS - QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

After the three USEPA presentations, the meeting was opened to comments and questions from the audience. Citizens who spoke focused on the following major areas of concern:

- Timeliness and accuracy of data to be used in the study;
- Dredging and encapsulation;
- Need for objectivity, scientific advice, and thorough consideration of all alternatives during the study;
- Need for a separate Liaison Group for the agricultural community as part of the Community Interaction Program;
- Dissatisfaction with NYSDEC;
- Approach to community relations/public participation.

Three written statements which were submitted for the record by representatives of Concerned Citizens for the Environment, the Adirondack Regional Chambers of Commerce, and the New York State Grange can be found in Appendix C.

### **5.1 Timeliness and Accuracy of Study Data**

Comment: A number of speakers voiced concern that the Scope of Work seemed to indicate reliance on dated data. Speakers recommended new field studies, including a new look at the contamination levels of areas currently considered "hot spots" and the assessment of other areas which for a variety of reasons may be suspected of having high levels of PCBs. Questions were also raised as to use of congener-specific toxicity data in the analysis.

EPA Response: Part of what is planned for Phase One of the reassessment study is analysis of the data currently available to determine what, if any, additional data are needed. "Modeling" in Phase One pertains to the development of models to be used later when appropriate data are accumulated. EPA uses a standard value, not congener-specific values, for PCBs in its analyses.

### **5.2 Dredging and Encapsulation**

A number of attendees expressed opposition to any plans for dredging and encapsulation. Associated concerns included dispersion of PCBs into the river

water and thence into the air, "distressed" in property values in the vicinity of possible encapsulation sites, fear of encapsulating contaminants on agricultural land, and concern that dredging would set back any natural cleansing of the river that is occurring. One speaker favored dredging and encapsulation in connection with ultimate disposal of PCBs and requested EPA to consider disposal as part of the dredging/encapsulation alternative.

**EPA Response:** There is no predisposition towards any alternative remedy. Consideration will be given to all options and public concerns.

### **5.3 Need for Objective, Scientific Analysis and Thorough Consideration of all Alternatives**

**Comment:** Several speakers expressed approval of EPA's commitment to an open and scientific approach to the reassessment study. Strong recommendations were made from the floor to take into consideration all available data. Many speakers supported consideration of bioremediation technology, particularly recommending analysis of General Electric's bioremediation study findings. A number of attendees favored continuation of a No Action alternative until more conclusive data are available on bioremediation.

**EPA Response:** The assessment study will utilize all relevant information. EPA expects to use GE's data and anticipates that GE, NYSDEC and others with pertinent information will cooperate in the study.

### **5.4 Separate Agricultural Liaison Group**

**Comment:** A number of speakers recommended creation of an Agricultural Liaison Group as part of the Community Interaction Program structure, based on that community's specific interests in the PCB problem and potential solutions.

**EPA Response:** The Community Interaction Program is designed to be flexible, and if there is in fact enough interest, an Agricultural Liaison Group can be formed.

### **5.5 Dissatisfaction with NYSDEC**

**Comment:** A number of speakers expressed a mistrust of NYSDEC and its motives in its approach to the Hudson River PCB problem, and voiced complaints about having experienced closed-mindedness and poor communication by DEC on prior Hudson River activities.

**EPA Response:** EPA as the lead agency in the project is taking an open, objective approach to the reassessment study and has no predisposition to any particular

alternative. EPA is sensitive to concerns about communication and will make every effort to provide ample notification of meetings and other activities so the public can participate fully.

## **5.6 Approach to Community Relations/Public Participation**

Two speakers offered comments on the project's approach to community relations and public participation, including requests for additional information repositories mid-state and downstate and dissatisfaction over the notice for and location of the public meeting, which they felt was inconvenient for people living south of Albany. Additional comments from one speaker addressed her perception that the Community Interaction Program perpetuates a "split" between upriver and downriver communities, did not include enough representation from downstate and out of state, and should not be divided among Liaison Groups. Also, the Community Relations Plan omitted specific mention of two concerns from its itemized list and failed to convey an appropriate sense of urgency. She was critical of GE, questioned its presence on the Oversight Committee, and requested input to the reassessment study from the scientific community.

EPA Response: Any interested party will be welcome on the mailing list and as a participant in the Community Interaction Program. The program was structured into groups and committees to allow as many people as possible to participate in a rational, manageable way. Meetings will be held in various locations as the project progresses and additional repositories will be addressed. A Scientific and Technical Committee is part of the project management plan and suggestions from the public as to potential members are welcome. The Oversight Committee is not a decision-making body. Its membership is a representation of a broad range of expertise and it is appropriate for GE to sit on that committee. The EPA Regional Administrator makes the decision on the ultimate remedy, based on recommendations by the Division Director. The Oversight Committee ensures that the Division Director has as much information as possible when making these recommendations and that the Director is aware of the range of public and scientific positions to be considered. Any suggestions as to how to facilitate this flow of information will also be welcome.

## **5.7 Miscellaneous**

A student questioned the original dumping of PCBs into the Hudson and asked about money for the clean-up.

A farmer requested that his well water be tested.



EPA Response: Superfund legislation permits recovery of EPA's cost of study and remediation. If implementation of an alternative occurs, EPA can ask the responsible party to do it and in this case GE would be asked.

Generally, PCBs do not migrate quickly through groundwater. EPA responded that the agency would look into the problem. The speaker was contacted by a representative of both EPA and DOH after the meeting.

HRP 001 0243



United States  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 2: New Jersey, New York  
Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands  
26 Federal Plaza, NY, NY 10278

# NEWS

90 (212) Ann Rychlenski 212/264-7214

FOR RELEASE: Monday, December 3, 1990

**EPA TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING IN SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK, ON THE REASSESSMENT OF THE HUDSON RIVER PCB SUPERFUND SITE**

NEW YORK -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold a public meeting to discuss the Agency's plans for reassessing the Hudson River PCB Superfund site. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 13, 1990 at 7:30 p.m. in the Saratoga Springs City Center, located at 522 Broadway in Saratoga Springs, New York.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information on EPA's continuing studies of PCBs in the Hudson River and to present the scope of work developed by the Agency's contractor. EPA is beginning a Reassessment Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study to reevaluate the extent and nature of the problem and identify remedial alternatives for the PCB-Contaminated Sediments in the Hudson River.

EPA will also outline its proposed Community Interaction Program for public participation in the Superfund process at this site.

Documents pertaining to the Hudson River PCB Superfund site are available for public review at the Information Repositories established by EPA at the following locations:

County Clerk's Office  
Washington County Office Bldg.  
Upper Broadway  
Fort Edward, NY 12828

Town Clerk's Office  
Fort Edward Town Hall  
118 Broadway  
Ft. Edward, NY 12828

Crandell Library  
City Park  
Glens Falls, NY 12801

Saratoga Springs Public Library  
320 Broadway  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Troy Public Library  
100 Second Street  
Troy, NY 12180

New York State Library  
CEC Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12230

NYSDEC - Region 4  
2176 Guilderland Ave.  
Schenectady, NY 12406

NYSDEC - Region 5  
Route 86  
Ray Brook, NY 12977

NYSDEC - Central Office  
Room 409  
50 Wolf Road  
Albany, NY 12233

U.S. EPA, Region 2  
Office of External Programs  
26 Federal Plaza  
New York, NY 10278

#### Site Background

During a 30-year period ending in 1977, it is estimated that up to 1.1 million pounds of PCBs were discharged into the Hudson River from two General Electric Company (GE) capacitor manufacturing plants located in Fort Edward and Hudson Falls, New York. Discharged PCBs adhered to the sediments that accumulated behind the Fort Edward Dam. When the deteriorating dam was removed in 1973, PCB-contaminated sediments were released downstream. Subsequent sediment surveys revealed that the most extensive contamination was confined to 40 "hot spots" located in a 40-mile stretch of the river between Fort Edward and Albany.

In 1975 the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) brought an action against GE that resulted in a \$7 million settlement. In 1976, the NYSDEC banned all fishing in the upper Hudson River, from Albany north through Fort Edward, because PCB contamination had been detected in Hudson River fish. The ban is still in effect today. In 1977 and 1978 some highly contaminated sediments were removed from one of the remnant deposits and were placed in a secure landfill in Moreau, along with some sediment

dredged from just below the old Fort Edward Dam. In September 1980, one of the amendments to the Clean Water Act entitled, "The Hudson River PCB Reclamation Demonstration Project", provided construction grant funds for the demonstration of technologies, particularly dredging, that would clean up the contamination without causing further PCB migration and pollution. Congress authorized EPA to make grants to the NYSDEC in order to carry out the intent of the amendment. In December 1982, the EPA Administrator determined that funds for addressing this problem were available under the newly-created Superfund, and that the problem rated high enough to be considered for inclusion on the National Priorities List (NPL).

In September 1984, a Record of Decision (ROD) was signed by EPA for the Hudson River PCB site, addressing the remnant deposits and the river sediments. EPA's decision was in-place containment, or capping, of four of the remnant deposits, stabilization of the associated riverbanks and revegetation of the areas. The ROD selected an interim "no-action" alternative for the river sediments. In December 1989, the EPA announced it would reassess its 1984 "no-action" decision based on advances in treatment technologies, a preference for permanent remedies, and the Superfund provision requiring a five-year review for all sites where contaminants remain on site.

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HRP 001 0246



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION II

JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10278

PUBLIC MEETING  
HUDSON RIVER PCB SUPERFUND SITE  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1990  
7:30 P.M.

SARATOGA SPRINGS CITY CENTER, SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY

A G E N D A

Welcome & Introduction

Ann Rychlenski, Community  
Relations Coordinator,  
U.S. EPA, Region 2

Overview of the Superfund  
Process and Site History

Kathleen Callahan  
Deputy Director, Emergency and  
Remedial Response Division  
U.S. EPA, Region 2

Presentation of the Scope of  
Work for the Reassessment  
Remedial Investigation/  
Feasibility Study

Douglas Tomchuk, Remedial  
Project Manager, U.S. EPA,  
Region 2

Presentation of EPA's Community  
Interaction Program for the  
Hudson River PCB Reassessment

Ann Rychlenski, Community  
Relations Coordinator  
U.S. EPA, Region 2

Question & Answer Period

HRP 001 0247

**APPENDIX B**

**SECTION 1**

HRP 001 0248

# **Hudson River Reassessment Study Scope of Work**

## **REASONS FOR DOING THE REASSESSMENT**

**Called for in 1984 Record of Decision  
based on:**

**Advancement in technologies for treating PCBs**

**Development of dredging techniques**

**In addition:**

**Project Action Plan expanded beyond scope  
envisioned for Demonstration Project  
--Demonstration Project not proceeding**

**EPA policy for a Five-Year Review for sites  
where contamination remains on-site**

HRP 001 0249

**APPENDIX B**  
**SECTION 2**

HRP 001 0250



**Hudson River Reassessment Study  
Scope of Work**

**STUDY PHASES**

- 1. Preliminary Reassessment**
- 2. Further Site Characterization and Analysis**
- 3. Feasibility Study**

# **Hudson River Reassessment Study Scope of Work**

## **PRELIMINARY REASSESSMENT**

**Site Characterization**

**Environmental Requirements**

**Review of PCB Accumulation Model**

**Sediment Transport Modeling**

**Baseline Risk Assessment**

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**Hudson River Reassessment Study  
Scope of Work**

**FURTHER SITE CHARACTERIZATION  
AND ANALYSIS**

**Field Sampling and Surveys\***

**Modeling**

**Biotreatment Study Review**

**NYSDEC Activities Oversight**

**Treatability Studies\***

**\* optional activity**

**Hudson River Reassessment Study  
Scope of Work**

**FEASIBILITY STUDY**

**Remedial Alternatives Screening**

**Detailed Evaluation**

**Reassessment Report**

# **Hudson River Reassessment Study Scope of Work**

## **SCHEDULE**

- 12/90** - Finalize Scope of Work  
- Kick-off Meeting
- 1/91** - Submit Draft Phase I Work Plan
- 3/91** - Finalize Phase I Work Plan
- 5/91** - Submit Interim Phase I Report  
- Submit Draft Phase II Work Plan
- 7/91** - Finalize Phase II Work Plan
- 8/91 to 12/91\*** - Perform Field Investigations  
(as necessary)  
- Observe Biotreatment Studies
- 3/92** - Submit Interim Phase II Report  
- Submit Draft Phase III Work Plan
- 5/92** - Finalize Phase III Work Plan
- 8/92** - Issue Draft Reassessment Report

\* Timeframe dependent on extent of sampling

**APPENDIX B**

**SECTION 3**

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- **THE LARGE GEOGRAPHIC AREA INVOLVED**
- **THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITIES WHICH ARE INVOLVED OR INTERESTED**
- **THE NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND PRIVATE INTEREST GROUPS THAT HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE PAST**
- **THE POTENTIAL FOR A LARGE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION TO BE EXCHANGED**
- **AWARENESS OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THE ISSUES TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, AND THE PUBLIC'S DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE**
- **THE LENGTH OF TIME THAT VARIOUS PROJECTS TO ADDRESS PCBS IN THE HUDSON HAVE BEEN ON-GOING**

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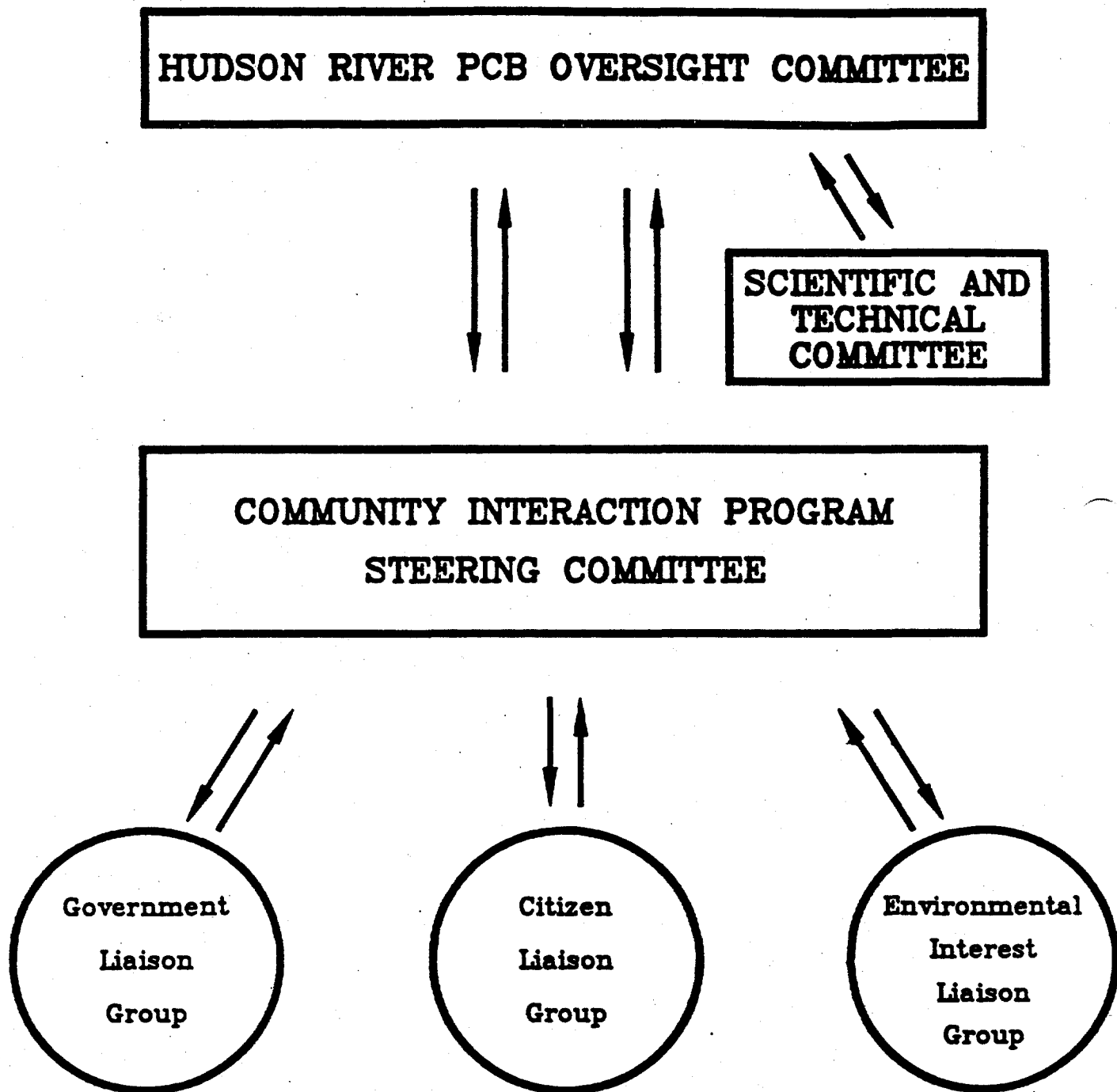
## **OBJECTIVES HUDSON RIVER REASSESSMENT RI/FS COMMUNITY INTERACTION PROGRAM**

- **ENTER INTO A DIALOGUE AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION WITH THE PUBLIC ON THE HUDSON RIVER PCB ISSUE**
- **PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE SUPERFUND PROCESS**
- **INFORM THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE NATURE OF ACTIVITIES WHICH WILL OCCUR AT THE HUDSON RIVER PCB SITE**
- **IDENTIFY TO THE PUBLIC WHO WILL ACTUALLY PERFORM REASSESSMENT WORK AT THE SITE**
- **PROVIDE THE PUBLIC WITH REGULAR PROGRESS REPORTS**
- **PROVIDE THE PUBLIC THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOICE OPINIONS, ASK QUESTIONS, AND EXCHANGE INFORMATION DURING THE STUDY PROCESS**
- **PROVIDE TIMELY AND ACCURATE RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS AND ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC**
- **ENCOURAGE CONTINUING INTEREST AND PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC DURING THE ENTIRE STUDY PROCESS**
- **INFORM THE PUBLIC OF FINDINGS OF THE REASSESSMENT STUDY AND OF THE ULTIMATE RECOMMENDATIONS**



# HUDSON RIVER PCB REASSESSMENT STUDY

## COMMUNITY INTERACTION PROGRAM (CIP)



**INFORMATION REPOSITORIES  
HUDSON RIVER PCB REASSESSMENT RI/FS**

**COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE**  
WASHINGTON COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
UPPER BROADWAY  
FORT EDWARD, NY 12828

**CRANDALL LIBRARY**  
CITY PARK  
GLENS FALLS, NY 12801

**FORT EDWARD TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**  
FORT EDWARD TOWN HALL  
118 BROADWAY  
FORT EDWARD, NY 12828

**NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSERVATION**  
REGION 4  
2176 GUILDERLAND AVENUE  
SCHENECTADY, NY 12406

**REGION 5**  
ROUTE 86  
RAY BROOK, NY 12977

**CENTRAL OFFICE**  
ROOM 409  
50 WOLF ROAD  
ALBANY, NY 12233

**NEW YORK STATE LIBRARY**  
CEC EMPIRE PLAZA  
ALBANY, NY 12230

**SARATOGA SPRINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
320 BROADWAY  
SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY 12866

**TROY PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
100 SECOND STREET  
TROY, NY 12180

**US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
OFFICE OF EXTERNAL PROGRAMS  
26 FEDERAL PLAZA  
NEW YORK, NY 10278

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**ANN RYCHLENSKI  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COORDINATOR  
USEPA REGION 2  
26 FEDERAL PLAZA, ROOM 1141K  
NEW YORK, NY 10278**

**(212) 264-7214**

HRP 001 0261

# Concerned Citizens for the Environment

RD 2 Box 124 Schaghticoke, New York 12154  
518-753-6543 or 518-272-4204

Ken Duffy, President  
Celia Murray, Vice President

December 13, 1990

## COMMENTS ON PROPOSAL TO DREDGE PCB'S FROM THE HUDSON RIVER

The plan to dredge the Hudson River should be opposed until the viability of bioremediation can be properly assessed, but unfortunately one of the reasons we take this stance is that the past behavior of both General Electric and the Department of Environmental Conservation demonstrate that neither of them can be trusted to protect our River without oversight.

We cannot forget that it is GE that spent years using the Hudson River as their private garbage dump. At the same time, we would prefer to see the PCB's cleared without the additional complication of polluting landfills and resuspended particles. GE is still burning PCB's in their rotary kiln incinerator in Waterford, solving their landfill problem by sending them into their neighbor's air. It is critical that GE made to research bioremediation aggressively, and that their assessment of its viability be reviewed scrupulously. To this end, we propose that GE post a bond now that would cover the cost of dredging in case bioremediation does not work. The interest earned should be placed in a fund for the downriver communities that have borne GE's assault on their environment for all these years, for support of community programs.

GE should develop a timetable for research that includes regular reports on their progress to the communities, with independent review of the program. Should

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bioremediation not be viable, the bond will assure that the dredging can be done. If it is, the public will have assurances other than the questionable word of the polluter that their option works. The bond should not be retired until a year after the end of the bioremediation program, to serve as a remediation fund for unforeseen problems. This will encourage GE to pursue bioremediation responsibly and offer downriver communities some relief if the company's plan experiences problems.

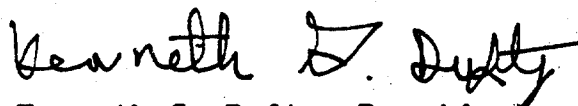
Unfortunately, we simply do not believe that DEC is competent to oversee dredging properly, so any alternatives to dredging must be fully pursued. Obviously this is the regulatory agency that has allowed GE to bring our river to such a state, but our group has a more specific reason to distrust any assurances from DEC regarding PCB cleanup. This agency is willing to let a power plant developer in lower Saratoga County disturb PCB's by excavation in the river, have them enter their intake pipes, and blow them into the air from the cooling towers. You can filter PCB's from water, but NOT from the air you breathe. Yet, DEC supports this situation as acceptable and clearly disagree with our concern. An agency that casually allows PCB's to be blown into the air from a cooling tower or an incinerator has not earned sufficient trust to make sure a PCB dredging program is done well enough to protect downriver communities.

We are sympathetic with the groups that feel this problem has been allowed to go on too long, but we feel that impatience now will only place the solution in hands we cannot trust. If GE posts and bond to cover the costs of

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dredging if necessary, pursues bioremediation responsibly, and agrees to participation by the municipalities and groups concerned with protection of the HUDSON River; it is possible that everyone's best interests will be served. The worst possible result would be that we are in no different situation than now, the best would be that a major polluter and DEC would have had to respect the interests of area communities rather than dictate to them. Most importantly, it offers the opportunity for much-needed oversight by residents.

We appreciate the chance to speak here tonight, and reiterate our concern that this problem be handled with fair deliberation rather than expediency.

  
Kenneth G. Dufty, President

  
Celia A. Murray, Vice-President

HRP 001 0264



DATE: DECEMBER 13, 1990

RESOLUTION REGARDING  
THE EPA'S PLAN CONCERNING PCB'S IN THE HUDSON RIVER

WHEREAS the Environmental Protection Agency is involved in a Hudson River reassessment in order to determine what action may be necessary and appropriate relative to the presence of PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls), and

WHEREAS in the past the EPA has studied the river and recommended no action as being the best course to follow, and

WHEREAS there exist possibilities that new discoveries of a biological nature developed by General Electric Company and confirmed by independent sources could reduce PCB's in the Hudson River by using a naturally occurring biodegradation process, and

WHEREAS an application has been made by General Electric Company seeking permission to demonstrate the likelihood of success of this method, and

WHEREAS dredging, as currently proposed, would create a broad range of problems including PCB sediment disruption, hindrances to commercial and recreational boat traffic and shoreline erosion, it is hereby

RESOLVED that the Adirondack Regional Chambers of Commerce, representing 1500 business firms in Warren, Washington and northern Saratoga Counties, is opposed to the dredging of the Hudson River until all other avenues (including biodegradation processes) are investigated, and it is further

RESOLVED that the ARCC urges the State of New York and the Environmental Protection Agency to reject the proposed dredging process and to work collaboratively with General Electric Company and any other interested parties to develop a natural biodegradation process.

HRP 001 0265



*The*

## NEW YORK STATE Grange



498 Dorothy & Henry Rowland  
Box 185 - N. Creek Rd.  
Greenfield Center, NY 12833

C.W.A. Directors

(518) 584-9078

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am here tonight representing the New York State Grange an organization representing rural agricultural and small communities. There are 88 local units in those counties north of metropolitan New York City bordering on the Hudson River. An area that is one of the major fruit producing areas in this state as well as dairying. This area is also under pressure by urban dwellers moving to rural area and commercial development of former agricultural lands.

The New York State Grange opposes the dredging of the Hudson River to remove PCB's for the following reasons.

1. A previous study found that such a program was not feasible in that less than 5% of remaining PCB's would be removed. At the same time the dredging activities would reactivate the remaining PCB's thus causing more down river damage.
2. PCB's removal could be compared to the mandated removal of Asbestos from public buildings. A later study of that problem by the noted Harvard University, that it was better to leave the asbestos untouched.
3. In the introductory paragraph, attention was given to the importance of agriculture in this area. Spreading this sludge on agricultural land reduces a major natural resources-prime farmlands by the contamination of thousands of acres, creation of new landfills.
4. Already the Department of Environmental Conservation has caused considerable number of problems that adds measureably to the cost of production and also to the loss of agricultural land as wetland programs, use of pesticides, etc.
5. The news media has brought to our attention the



*The*

## NEW YORK STATE *Grange*

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continuing fiscal problem, expenditures outdistancing income, and this in addition to a one billion dollar increase in taxation for the State in the spring of 1990. The Governor and Legislative leaders are trying to find an acceptable solution. As yet no remedy.

6. Local property assessed valuation may also be decreased. these assessments provide the 2 major sources for income for local, county and school tax resources. Increasing the burden on the remaining taxpayers.

Is there no end?

7. This is the age of technology, much has been done to protect the environments, more will be done in the way of bio-degradable, etc. Let's not bind the hands of industry, science in attacking problems with new skills.

Perhaps this sounds as if agriculture contributes to the deterioration of the environment. This not the case. Producers are very concerned about the environments. They deal with it daily, they are dependent upon it, their future is closely tied to it. Fiscally, environmentally, economically - we need to let sleeping dogs lie.

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Seetha Wimala	58 Court Street Saratoga Springs NY 12866	S.S.S.H.S.	I
M. Ann Peck	447 - Rt 32 Schuylerville		I
Jane & Bob Story	5 THOMAS AVENUE Hudson Falls, N.Y.	C.E.A.S.E. OF Fort Edward.	I
Kevin Grupe	3301 Birchton Rd Ballston Spa, N.Y. 12020	Saratoga County Farm Bureau	Ag Liason Group 'C + I
Sary Bigelow	21 Lux. Wright Hudson Falls, NY 12839	Ft. Edward Town Councilman	I
THOMAS V. DANAHY	4 Clinton Place #3 Saratoga Springs, NY 12866	Dunn Geoscience Corp. Albany, NY	I
Roger Moseley	RD 1 Box 270 BUCKIRK, NY 12028	Renss. Co Farm Bureau	I.
KEVIN W. HOFFMAN	1170 LAFAYETTE RD WAYNE PA 19087	GE	

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Beth Kinney	RD2 Box 438 Cambridge, NY 12816	Cambridge Central School 11th Grader	I
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JANICE BOVAT	88 NO. WASHINGTON ST MECHANICVILLE NY 12118	TOWN OF SCHAGHTICOKE COUNCILWOMAN	I
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Catherine Crawshaw	103 Condon Rd Stillwater NY 12140		
Garry Douglas	P.O. Box 445 Waterford, NY 12188	Citizen against dredging	
A Z Solomon	725 W. RIVER RD GAUSELDOORT, NY	"	I
V J GARLANDA	PO Box 71 SARATOGA, NY 12866 .0071	"	IC

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Tim Hockenos	77 Ludlow St Saratoga Springs NY		
DANIEL J. LOEWENSTEIN	GARRETT ROAD LAKE, Ballston Spa		I
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Nike Simone	585 Broadway Saratoga Springs NY	Assembly D'Audrea	I / C
Miles Reed	The Saratogian 20 Lake Ave Saratoga Springs	The Saratogian.	I

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Geoff Henson	2265 CALVERT WASHINGTON D.C. 20515	CONGRESSMAN SOLOMON RIVER COMMITTEE	
Deboox	Box 184 Rt 4 N Schuylerville NY 12871		
GERALDINE BROWN	#2 BROWN Road N.Y. Saratoga 12866	Agriculture	I 4-H Co.
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Harold Fuller	West Road FT. ANN NY. 12827		

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LYDIA ZALUCKY	24 Quaker Rd. Q'bury, N.Y. 12804	TV-8	
Delia A. Murray	6 Irving Place Troy, NY 12180	Concerned Citizens for the Environment	C <del>(see other sheet)</del>
Ken Dufty	RD 2, Box 124 Schaghticoke, NY 12154		<del>see other sheet</del>
Marion Ineste	172 Spring St Saratoga Springs 12866	Saratoga Springs Hazardous Waste Coalition	
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THOMAS BORDEN	RD 1 Box 153 SCHAGHTICOKE, NY 12154	WASHINGTON CO. FARM BUREAU	I C
MAN ZIEGLER	PO BOX 56 WATERFORD N.Y. 12181	CITIZEN	
John Merrill	11 Mendis Farm Delmar NY	Albany County F.B.	
Stephanie Merrill	Sen. Stafford Assemblyman Kelleher	(310 Canada St.) Dis. office - Lake George	(see other sheet) (12845) I
Olga Anderson	PO Box 535 Troy		C
Bill HENNESSY	108 GREENWICH CT CUSTON PARK, NY 12065	CITIZEN	I

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Peter Langdon	G.E. - 111 Washington Ave B/D/H		C-1
Harold Berger	P.O. Box 489 Waterford NY 12188	Waterford Water Works.	C-1
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Mulvaney George	Main St Frale	Washington County Planning	I
Eclgar King	178 King Rd Schuylerville	—	I
Locke Wells	11 Bunsford Schuylerville		
John Rieger	R.D. 1 Greenwich, N.Y. 12834	Ft. Edward town Bd.	I
Jean Battry	66 Fairfield CT.	GC	I
Louis E. Marchaloni	Greenwich, N.Y.	Farm Bureau	I
James L. Keene	R.D. #1 Box 180 Greenwich, N.Y. 12834	W.C.F.B.	I
Jane Sheeran	176 Burke Rd Saratoga NY 12866	—	I, C

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ENNIO RUGGI	15 BURGoyNE AVE. HUDSON FALLS, N.Y. 12839	CEASE	
CARL DEPPE	18 THOMAS AVE HUDSON FALLS NY 12839	CEASE	C
Mason Dinsby	RD #1 Ft. Edwards N.Y. 12828	CEASE	C
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Kenneth Rly	Rt. 3 Box 157 Greenwich, N.Y. 12834-9112	Work Co 3600 Bureau Bureau	I
Joseph Shevchenko	12834-9115	Work Co.	I
Jeffery Kirby	New York Farm Bureau Rt. 9W, Box 992 Glenmont, New York 12077	New York Farm Bureau	I C
Steve Popitzky	Box 24 Durham Rd Stillwater, N.Y. 12170	N.Y. Farm Bureau	I
Roy T KRISTIANSEN	RD 2 Box 292V Whitehall NY 12887	N.Y. FARM BUREAU	I

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