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JAN 19 1991

Ms. Cara Lee  
Environmental Director  
Scenic Hudson, Inc.  
9 Vassar Street  
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601

Ms. Bridget Barclay  
Environmental Director  
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater  
112 Market Street  
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601

Dear Ms. Lee and Ms. Barclay:

Thank you for your letter dated December 12, 1990 concerning the Reassessment Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (Reassessment RI/FS) for the Hudson River PCBs site. Your letter expressed concern over the manner in which you were informed of the public meeting on the Scope of Work for the Reassessment RI/FS, the location of the public meeting, and the lack of information repositories in the mid-Hudson region. I understand that both of you have discussed these issues with Ann Rychlenski of the Office of External Programs, and Douglas Tomchuk, the project manager.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the public meeting to present the Scope of Work and the Community Interaction Program to all interested parties as soon as the documents were developed. The time between the notification and the meeting date may have been short, but EPA wanted to present the information as soon as it was available. In addition, please keep in mind that the holiday season limited the dates available to hold the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to inform the public of the status of the Reassessment RI/FS and EPA's approach to the study. EPA believes that one public meeting was sufficient to convey that information. The information was also available to people who could not attend the public meeting through the documents in the information repositories, the press release, and newspaper articles covering the meeting. The primary problems being studied in the Reassessment RI/FS are the PCB-contaminated river sediments located in the upper Hudson River, and the effects of

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that contamination on the lower Hudson. Any remediation that might be selected as a result of the Reassessment RI/FS would have to be conducted in the upper Hudson area, and we therefore felt it was most appropriate to hold the first meeting in the upper Hudson area. EPA understands the many downriver interests, and in the future, during the decision making process, will hold public meetings at downriver locations so as to receive direct input from those communities. In addition, we also plan to establish information repositories in the mid-Hudson area and Long Island as suggested in your letter. Copies of the Scope of Work and the Community Relations Plan were mailed to Scenic Hudson on December 10, 1990.

Finally, EPA has discussed with General Electric (GE) the possibility of GE giving a presentation to the public on GE's studies on the biodegradation of PCBs. GE seemed very interested in the idea, and it was hoped that this could be arranged sometime in early March. EPA intends to pursue this further through the Community Interaction Program.

Let me assure you, EPA is making every effort to proceed with the Reassessment RI/FS in an objective and open manner, and as expeditiously as possible. If you have any further questions, or need additional information, please contact Ann Rychlenski at (212) 264-7214.

Sincerely,

Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff  
Regional Administrator

cc: Senator Daniel P. Moynihan  
Congressman Hamilton Fish  
Congresswoman Nita Lowey  
Congressman Gerald R. Solomon  
Senator Owen Johnson  
Assemblyman Maurice D. Hinchey  
Thomas Jorling, Commissioner  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

bcc: Ann Rychlenski, OEP  
Jeane Rosianski, OEP  
Paul Simon, ORC

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