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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION II

JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10278

AUG 23 1991

To All Interested Parties:

As a result of PCB contamination, the Hudson River PCBs site was placed on the Superfund National Priorities List. In September 1984, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for the site which calls for, on an interim basis, no-action for the PCB-contaminated river sediments and capping of the remnant deposits. The ROD states that EPA will reassess this decision when the reliability and applicability of treatment technologies are demonstrated or if techniques for dredging contaminated sediment are further developed. EPA commenced the reassessment in December 1990. Because of the complexity and enormity of the task, EPA decided to perform the reassessment in three phases.

EPA is pleased to release the Phase 1 Report for the Reassessment Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS), entitled, Interim Characterization and Evaluation. The Phase 1 Report of this reassessment is an interim report which presents the compilation of existing data and analyses of that data. Based on the conclusions of the Phase 1 study, additional data will be required to more fully characterize the impact of the contamination on the River. A Phase 2 study will be performed to achieve this task. During Phase 2, EPA will conduct the data collection and analyses needed for site characterization. Upon completion of Phase 2, Phase 3 will be conducted. In Phase 3, EPA will conduct a Feasibility Study to determine what remedies, if any, are appropriate.

EPA has established a Community Interaction Program (CIP) for the Hudson River PCBs site to enhance the opportunity of interested and affected parties to input and comment on the Reassessment RI/FS. As part of the CIP, we have held periodic meetings to discuss our plans, schedules and pertinent issues. Consistent with the intent of the CIP, EPA is distributing this Phase 1 Report for your comment. I believe you will find the Phase 1 Report useful in describing the background of the site and the data on PCB contamination in the Hudson River environment. All interested parties will have until October 25, 1991 to review and comment on the Phase 1 Report and to suggest the activities they believe necessary for site characterization in Phase 2. After that period, EPA will prepare a response to comments received and will, to the extent appropriate, incorporate the comments in the following phases of the reassessment.

EPA will shortly release a Phase 2A Sampling Plan which will outline data collection efforts that EPA believes are necessary to be conducted during Fall 1991 to guide subsequent sampling activities and to maintain the project schedule. A full Phase 2 Work Plan, including a Phase 2B Sampling Plan, will be developed after the comment period for the Phase 1 Report and will be distributed for full public comment.

In order to assist those who are not familiar with the technical aspects of the report, EPA will hold an availability session, with a phone-in capability, to answer questions. This availability session will be held on September 5, 1991 at the Saratoga Springs City Center, Room 101, in Saratoga Springs, New York, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. For those who cannot attend the availability session in person, the telephone number to contact is 1-800-287-1395.

In addition to the availability session, EPA will also hold public meetings to discuss the Phase 1 Report. The first meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on September 11, 1991, at the Radisson Hotel in Poughkeepsie, New York, and the second on September 12, 1991 at 7:00 p.m. at the Durkee Hose Company in Fort Edward, New York.

We urge all citizens who wish to participate in the reassessment process to join the liaison group best representing their interests. Liaison group comments, as well as any other comments, should be sent to:

Mr. Douglas Tomchuk
Hudson River PCBs Site Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region II - Room 747
26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10278.

We look forward to your input on the Phase 1 Report, and throughout this very important project. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Ann Rychlenski, of the Office of External Programs at (212) 264-7214.

Sincerely yours,

Kathleen C. Callahan

Kathleen C. Callahan, Director
Emergency and Remedial Response Division

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