



Eastern Research Group, Inc.

## - M E M O R A N D U M -

**DATE:** Date  
**TO:** Potential Reviewer  
**FROM:** Arlene Levin and Tom DeCoff  
**RE:** Peer Review of Hudson River PCBs Reassessment Reports

=====

Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG), under contract to the U.S. Environmental (EPA), is in the process of identifying experts who might be appropriate to peer PCB reassessment. After reviewing the qualifications of potential reviewers, ERG experts to participate in the review. The following is additional background information availability form and conflict of interest screen to fill out and return to ERG as so

on Agency  
document on  
propose 5 to 7  
and an  
possible.

### BACKGROUND

During a 30-year period ending in 1977, approximately 1.1 million pounds of PCB into the Hudson River from two General Electric (GE) capacitor manufacturing plants in Edward and Hudson Falls, New York. PCBs are classified by the U.S. EPA as probable human carcinogens.

discharged  
located in Fort  
human

A 197-mile stretch of the Hudson river from Hudson Falls to the Battery in New York City was designated as a Superfund site in 1983. EPA made an interim no-action decision in 1984. Due to the complexity of the reassessment of the PCB-contaminated sediments in the upper Hudson River, the complexity, and high level of public interest in this project, EPA decided to conduct the reassessment in three phases, issuing reports to the public as the work progressed. Phase 2, the largest, was further broken down into six segments. EPA's eventual remedial decision for the Hudson River will be based on the information contained in all three phases of the project and in all associated information fits together as a whole.

was classified  
EPA began  
to the size,  
study in three  
scope, was  
will depend on  
and how that

The purpose of this project is to conduct a peer review to determine whether the assumptions in the models form an appropriate groundwork for EPA to base a decision for the PCB-contaminated sediments in the upper Hudson River. The project will determine future concentrations of PCBs in water, sediment, and fish tissue. The rationale for selection of calibration data sets, descriptions of assumptions used, and pertinent issues are described in the following documents which will be provided: the Technical Scope of Work for Mathematical Modeling of PCB Fate and Transport, the PCB Reassessment RI/FS (June or July 1998), the Preliminary Model Calibration Report (October 1996), and the responses to public comments on the Preliminary Model Calibration Report.

and the  
ally credible  
will be used to  
approach,  
verification of  
peer reviewers:  
Hudson River  
report (October  
report.

## REVIEWER RESPONSIBILITIES

Each reviewer will be allotted 60 hours to:

- Review the Technical Scope of Work for Mathematical Modeling of PCB Fate and Transport for Hudson River PCB Reassessment RI/FS (June or July 1998), the Preliminary Model Calibration Report (October 1996), and the responses to public comments on the Preliminary Model Calibration Report. Provide a written peer review that responds to the charge, specific questions, and instructions for the reviewers. (Documents will be made available prior to the peer review.)
- Participate in one conference call, if requested, with ERG and EPA to discuss the review and the deliverables.
- Denote and, if practical, provide a copy of any relevant research that is not included in this report.
- If significant problems are observed in the use of appropriate EPA methodologies, provide specific comments, in writing, describing the problems and making appropriate suggestions. Reviewer suggestions should be specific, clear and without any ambiguity, and must conform to the existing EPA methodologies and guidelines.
- Provide all substantial comments and inserts in typed hard copy and on a diskette prepared using WordPerfect 6.1.
- Attend and actively participate in a 2-day meeting to be held near the city of Albany, New York (dates are not available at this time).

Please understand that this inquiry does not imply a commitment on ERG's part to use your services for this review, rather this inquiry provides us with information on your interest, availability, and qualifications to perform the task. Conversely, ERG understands that your response to our availability inquiry does not imply a commitment on your part at this time to perform the review. We hope to make our final selection of participants in June 1998. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Tom DeCoff at 781-674-7377 (Fax: 781-674-2851). We look forward to your response. Thank you.

**Peer Review of Hudson River PCBs Reassessment  
RI/FS Phase 2 Reports  
Preliminary Model Calibration Report**

**AVAILABILITY FORM**

Please fill out both pages of the availability form and respond to all of the questions below, and fax your response to 781-674-2851, Attention: Tom DeCoff, as soon as possible.

**Please fill out the following information for our records:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: (No P.O. Boxes): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions:**

1. Are you interested in participating in the project?    Yes    No    Maybe

**If yes, please send us your current resume/CV. You may fax or mail us a copy.**

2. Are you available for approximately 60 hours of work during July/August/September 1998?

Yes            No

**Please circle the days you will be available during August and September to attend a 2-day meeting in the Albany, New York area:**

August				
M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

September				
M	T	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

3. Please indicate your level of expertise by placing an **H = High degree**; **M = Medium degree**; or **L = Low degree** of expertise by each of the categories listed below:

☐ Fate and Transport Models  
☐ Fish Body Burden Models  
☐ Model Calibration/Validation  
☐ Sensitivity Analysis  
☐ PCBs

☐ Application of Model Results  
☐ Other Bioaccumulative/Persistent Chemicals

4. Do you have any potential conflicts of interest (COI) in performing this task (please fill out the attached COI screening form)?

5. If you are selected, would a fee be required? **Yes No**

If yes, is the EPA authorized rate of **\$xx/hour** acceptable? **Yes No**

If not, what is your lowest government rate?

Consultants will be requested to review the report and background information, prepare a written summary of their comments, and attend a 2-day meeting to discuss the report, for a total of 60 hours of work.

6. Other comments:

We look forward to receiving this information from you as soon as possible. If you have any questions, feel free to call Tom DeCoff at 781-674-7377, or fax us at 781-674-2851. Thank you.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST SCREEN

### Peer Review of Hudson River PCBs Reassessment RI/FS Phase 2 Reports Preliminary Model Calibration Report

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

An "independent peer reviewer" is an expert who was not associated with the generation of the specific work product (i.e., the report) either directly or by substantial contribution to its development or indirectly by consultation during the development of the specific product.

1. Are you currently employed by General Electric (GE) or have you or your company or organization received any funding, grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements from GE?
2. Are you currently employed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or have you or your company or organization received any funding, grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements from EPA?
3. Have you been associated with the generation of the specific work product directly by substantial contribution to its development?
4. Have you been associated with the generation of the specific work product indirectly by significant consultation during the development of the specific product?
5. Are there any other personal or professional circumstances that might pose a potential conflict of interest for your participation in reviewing this report?
6. Do you read, converse, and write in English fluently?