



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 2  
290 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

JAN - 7 1999

To All Interested Parties:

Enclosed is a copy of the *Report of the Hudson River PCBs Site Modeling Approach Peer Review* (Modeling Approach Peer Review report) for the Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site. The report presents the main points of Hudson River Modeling Approach peer review conducted on September 9-10, 1998.

EPA's Peer Review Policy requires peer review of all major scientific work products undertaken by the Agency which involve the use of scientific tools that have not been previously peer reviewed, or which involve the new application of existing scientific tools. Through peer review, it is the Agency's intent that the science behind its decisions will be reviewed by independent experts in an effort to ensure the credibility of that science. In addition to the issues addressed in the Modeling Approach Peer Review report, there are several aspects of the Hudson River PCBs Site Reassessment Study that require peer review in the future. Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG), an EPA contractor, will coordinate the peer review for the Reassessment.

Although the Modeling Approach Peer Review report is a summary of the major issues discussed during the peer review, it is not a verbatim transcript of the peer review session.

If you need additional information regarding the Modeling Approach Peer Review report, or other aspects of the Hudson River Reassessment, please contact Ann Rychlenski, the Community Relations Coordinator for the Site, at 212-637-3672.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "R. Caspe", written over a horizontal line.

Richard L. Caspe, Director  
Emergency and Remedial Response Division

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2  
290 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

January 31, 2000

To All Interested Parties:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) intends to begin the peer review of the Human Health Risk Assessment<sup>1</sup> and the Ecological Risk Assessment<sup>2</sup> for the Hudson River PCBs Site Reassessment Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (Reassessment) with an introductory meeting in March 2000. This is the fourth and final peer review that EPA plans to conduct on the science of the Reassessment. The peer review meeting will be held in May 2000. Exact dates and locations will be announced when available.

As part of each peer review, EPA policy recommends that the Agency formulate a clear, focused charge to the peer reviewers that identifies recognized issues and invites their comments or assistance. As with the three previous peer reviews for the Reassessment, EPA will consider charge questions submitted by the public for incorporation into the charge that the Agency provides to the peer reviewers. If you have suggestions for specific charge questions on the Human Health Risk Assessment or the Ecological Risk Assessment, please submit them in writing to:

Alison A. Hess, C.P.G.  
USEPA - Region 2  
290 Broadway - 19<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007-1866

Please submit charge questions for the Human Health Risk Assessment and the Ecological Risk Assessment on separate pages. Please submit all suggested charge questions by **February 18, 2000**.

Examples of charge questions are available in the peer review reports that have been prepared for the first two peer reviews (the third peer review is ongoing). These were distributed to the Reassessment report mailing list, which includes the members of the Steering Committee (Chairs and Co-chairs of the Agricultural, Citizen, Environmental and Governmental Liaison Groups), the

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<sup>1</sup> Human Health Risk Assessment for the Upper Hudson River, August 1999 and Human Health Risk Assessment for the Mid-Hudson River, Hudson River PCBs Reassessment RI/FS, December 1999.

<sup>2</sup> Ecological Risk Assessment for the Hudson River PCBs Reassessment RI/FS, August 1999 and Ecological Risk Assessment for Future Risks in the Lower Hudson River, December 1999.

Hudson River PCBs Oversight Committee, the Scientific and Technical Committee, and other interested parties. In addition, the peer review reports can be found in the information repositories for the Reassessment. The charges for the first two peer reviews also are available on the Hudson River PCBs web site at: [www.epa.gov/hudson](http://www.epa.gov/hudson). We expect to have the charge for the third peer review posted on our web site in the near future.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the Reassessment in general, please contact Ms. Ann Rychlenski, the Community Relations Coordinator for the site, at (212) 637-3672.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alison A. Hess".

Alison A. Hess, C.P.G.  
Project Manager  
Hudson River PCBs Site