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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  
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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**.

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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.

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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 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,

Alison A. Hess, C.P.G.  
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