



**GE Corporate
Environmental Programs**

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April 16, 1998

Douglas J. Tomchuk
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Ronald Sloan, Ph.D.
NYDEC Division of Fish & Wildlife
50 Wolf Road, Room 530
Albany, New York 12233

Gentlemen:

Enclosed are three (3) copies of the report entitled *Data Documentation and Interpretation Report: Submerged Aquatic Vegetation and Fish Community Analysis* (Exponent 1998). This report documents the data collected as part of the submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) survey and fish community analysis performed during the fall of 1997. The details of this field effort are described in the previously submitted study plan entitled *Ecological Value and Food Web Structure of Aquatic Communities of the Upper Hudson River: Study Plan* (PTI 1997). A report summarizing the PCB analysis of fish collected as part of this field effort has been previously submitted. A report summarizing the data collected on the phytophilous and benthic macroinvertebrates and the fish stomach contents is in preparation.

This report documents the occurrence of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) in the Thompson Island Pool. Plants were relatively scarce below water deeper than approximately 10 feet. This is probably the result of insufficient light reaching the river bottom. Plant densities generally increased as the water depth decreased. These shallow areas near shore have the highest amount of vegetation and historically the sediments in these areas have been the subject of removal proposals. Based on the results of this work, increasing the water depth by sediment removal will decrease the amount of plant material in the Thompson Island Pool. This work also shows that the vegetated areas provide much better fish habitat than unvegetated areas. Therefore, reducing the amount of vegetation would result in reductions in the amount of high-quality fish habitat and possibly the amount of fish produced in the Thompson Island Pool. We will be doing additional analysis of this vegetation data and may submit additional reports.

Mr. Tomchuk
Mr. Sloan
April 16, 1998
Page 2

If you have any questions, let me know. Please place a copy of this report and letter into the Site Administrative Record for the Upper Hudson River Superfund Site.

Yours Truly,



John G. Haggard

Enclosures

cc: William McCabe, U.S. EPA (letter only)
Douglas Fischer, U.S. EPA (letter only)
Walter Demick, N.Y.D.E.C
Robert Montione, N.Y.D.O.H (2 copies)
Al D'Bernardo, TAMS (2 copies)
Charlie Menzie, Menzie, Cura & Associates (2 copies)
Jay Field, NOAA (2 copies)
Anton Geidt, NOAA (letter only)
Anne Secord, U.S.F.W.S

Mr. Tomchuk
Mr. Sloan
April 16, 1998
Page 3

REFERENCES

Exponent. 1998. Data Documentation and Interpretation Report: Submerged Aquatic Vegetation and Fish Community Analysis. Exponent, Bellevue, WA.

PTI. 1997. Ecological Value and Food Web Structure of Aquatic Vegetation Communities in the Upper Hudson River: Study Plan. PTI Environmental Services, Bellevue, WA.