



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

JUN 24 1999

Mr. Joseph J. Seebode
Chief, Regulatory Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New York District
Jacob K. Javits Federal Building
New York, NY 10278-0090
ATTN: Regulatory Branch

RE: Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site and Public Notice Number: 1999-00380-YM & YN

Dear Mr. Seebode:

As you are aware, EPA has been conducting a study under the Superfund program to reassess the 1984 interim no-action decision for the PCB-contaminated sediments in the Upper Hudson River. Much of the work proposed in the general permit under review would occur within the boundaries of the Superfund site and much of the sediment involved could be contaminated with PCBs. Therefore, EPA believes that there are special considerations that should be addressed prior to approval of dredging in the Upper Hudson River. Such considerations are not reflected in the materials that EPA received regarding this project.

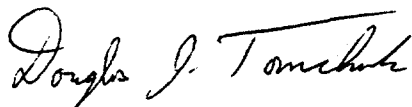
Primarily, even though the project is proposed for navigation purposes, it should be executed as if it were an environmental dredging project. In other words, the PCB-contaminated sediment should be removed in such a way as to prevent downstream transport of PCBs. Such measures could include using a dredge that will not create problematic resuspension, operational controls on the dredging to minimize resuspension, not allowing overflow of water from barges used to transport dredged material, and/or preventing transport of resuspended PCBs using coffer dams or silt curtains. The dewatering facilities should test discharge water to ensure that it meets all appropriate federal and State requirements (discharge water may need treatment). At no time should material containing PCBs be discharged into the river for subsequent hydraulic dredging to a dewatering facility. In addition, disposal options should consider the possibility that portions of the dredge spoils may be considered hazardous waste under New York State regulations.

The implementation of a contaminated sediment dredging project would normally involve the preparation and approval of a detailed design and monitoring program. EPA requests that the general permit not be issued for areas containing PCB-contaminated sediment until the appropriate documents have been developed and approved. EPA also requests an opportunity to comment on such documents prior to approval.

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (212) 637-3956.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Douglas J. Tomchuk". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Douglas J. Tomchuk, Project Manager
Hudson River PCBs Site

cc: Christine Delorier, USACE-Albany Field Office (via Fax)