



STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

11 University Place

Albany, New York 12203-3399

Dennis P. Whalen
Executive Deputy Commissioner

March 1999

Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed is a copy of the February 1999 draft Health Consultation report for the Hudson River PCB Superfund Site. This draft report was developed by the New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH), in cooperation with the U S Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). This report compares and discusses the results of two surveys of anglers fishing on the Hudson River. Anglers fishing on 172 miles of the Hudson River between Hudson Falls and the Tappan Zee Bridge were interviewed in 1996 using the same questionnaire which was used in 1991-92 by the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater. The 1996 survey found that more anglers fishing in the Upper Hudson River (Hudson Falls to Troy) were aware of the health advisories and fewer said they ate the fish. However, in the area south of Catskill, more than two-thirds of anglers were not aware of the advisories and some anglers said they were eating, sharing and giving away fish that they caught.

In October 1998, the US Environmental Protection Agency committed funds of \$173,000 to the state to inform anglers and others who eat fish from the Hudson River and New York Harbor about the health advisories. NYS DOH has begun by working with community and environmental groups, anglers, local governments and state and federal agencies to identify effective ways to provide health information about the fish advisories. Focus groups were held to field test signs that will be posted along the Hudson River, as well as contacting marina operators and others to enlist their support in posting the signs. A public service announcement will be developed to air on radio stations along the Hudson River and "River Rangers" will visit fishing access sites along the Hudson River to raise awareness about the health advisories.

Citizens' questions and comments are an important part of the review process and we encourage you to read the document carefully. Please send us your comments by **April 15, 1999**, so that they can be considered as the public health consultation is finalized. Enclosed is a reply form for your use. Please mail, fax or E-mail your comments to:

Mark Van Deusen
New York State Department of Health
Outreach Unit
2 University Place, Room 240
Albany, NY 12203-3399
E-Mail: BTSA@health.state.ny.us
Fax (518) 458-6372

If you have any questions or wish to obtain additional copies of the draft health consultation for the Hudson River PCB Site, please do not hesitate to contact me at the toll-free number, 1-800-458-1158.

Sincerely,


Mark Van Deusen
Outreach Unit
New York State Department of Health

Enclosure

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New York State Department of Health

Draft Public Health Consultation Reply Form Hudson River PCB Superfund Site

Thank you for taking the time to review this draft health consultation. The purpose of the comment period is to give you a chance to let us know if you have questions or additional information related to the site that should be included in this document. Also, is it accurate, clear, readable, understandable, factual and correct?

This reply form is divided into sections that correspond to the main headings in the report. Please write any questions on the assessment in the appropriate place shown below.

OPTIONAL INFORMATION

Name _____
Address _____
Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____
Best time to contact you _____

HEALTH CONSULTATION SECTIONS

Please refer to page numbers on the report when writing your questions or comments.

Background and Statement of Issue

Site Description and Study Area

Methods

**Draft Public Health Consultation Reply Form
Hudson River PCB Superfund Site**

Results and Discussion

Environmental Contamination

Conclusions

Recommendations

Public Health Action Plan

Attach additional sheets of paper if needed. **Please return by April 15, 1999.**

Mail to: Ms. Anita Gabalski
New York State Department of Health
Outreach Unit
2 University Place, Room 240
Albany, NY 12203

Fax to: Ms. Anita Gabalski
(518) 458-6372

E-Mail: BTSA@health.state.ny.us