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

SEP 3 1997

Honorable Kim Gamache  
Mayor, Village of Schuylerville  
35 Spring Street  
Schuylerville, NY 12871

Dear Mayor Gamache:

This is in response to your letters of June 19, 1997 to EPA Administrator Carol Browner and EPA Region 2 Administrator Jeanne M. Fox, regarding the Hudson River PCBs site. Your letters forward a copy of a recent Resolution by the Village of Schuylerville in which the Village expresses its opposition to any remediation measures for the site that involve the dredging of PCB-contaminated sediments from the Hudson River and the disposal of those sediments in a landfill.

EPA is aware of the concerns of a number of members of the Upper Hudson River community associated with potential dredging of PCB-contaminated sediments from the Upper Hudson River. As you know, EPA has not yet determined whether it will be appropriate or necessary to dredge Hudson River sediments in order to address PCB contamination in the Upper Hudson River. Such a decision will be made only after EPA completes its Reassessment study of the Hudson River PCBs site which, when completed, will include a detailed characterization of the PCB contamination in the Upper Hudson River and the risks associated with that contamination. EPA also will prepare and release for public comment a Feasibility Study in which the Agency will evaluate several remedial options for the River sediments, including "no-action" and various dredging alternatives. "Community acceptance" is one of the criteria that must be considered by EPA when the Agency ultimately makes a remedial decision for the Upper Hudson River sediments and, while EPA cannot sacrifice protection of human health and the environment in favor of community acceptance, public comments can play a significant role in EPA's ultimate remedial decision.

In March 1996, EPA staff made a presentation to the Washington County Board of Supervisors on the Hudson River PCBs Reassessment study. EPA is willing to make additional presentations to the Board of Supervisors, or a similar group, to keep you informed of the findings of the Reassessment. Please contact Ann Rychlenski at (212) 637-3672 if you wish to arrange for such a briefing.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Caspe".

Richard L. Caspe, Director  
Emergency and Remedial Response Division

cc: John Cahill, Commissioner NYSDEC  
Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan  
Senator Alphonse D'Amato  
Congressman Gerald B. Solomon  
Governor George Pataki  
NYS Senator Ronald B. Stafford  
NYS Assemblyman Bobby D'Andrea  
NYS Assemblywoman Elizabeth Little  
NYS Assemblyman Richard L. Brodsky

6/23/97

## Village of Schuylerville

35 Spring Street  
Schuylerville, NY 12871  
(518) 695-3881 Fax: (518) 695-3883

### RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_1\_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection agency is reassessing its 1984 decision not to dredge the Upper Hudson River to remove buried sediment containing PCB's, and

WHEREAS, the EPA has recently released a report that suggests the Agency may be preparing to reverse its position and order dredging and a PCB landfill in or around the Town of Fort Edward, and

WHEREAS, PCB landfill projects have twice before been proposed for agricultural properties in the Town of Fort Edward and have not gone forward due to strong opposition from the citizens of Fort Edward and the surrounding communities, and

WHEREAS, a PCB dredge and landfill project would have significant, long term adverse environmental, economic and social consequences for all Hudson River communities, including the Village of Schuylerville, especially affecting the agricultural industry and the quality of life currently enjoyed in the area, and

WHEREAS, a PCB dredge and landfill project would disrupt normal recreational use of the river and jeopardize public and private investments in river related amenities affecting the entire Upper Hudson region, and

WHEREAS, a PCB dredge and landfill project would adversely affect land values throughout the Upper Hudson region and discourage private investment that might lead to the creation of new jobs, and

WHEREAS, the Village Board of the Village of Schuylerville, finds that there is no demonstrated environmental benefit to a dredge and landfill project on the Hudson River and many unmitigated long-term negative environmental, economic and social consequences affecting the entire region, and now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board of the Village of Schuylerville, in concert with the Town Board of the Town of Fort Edward, hereby express its opposition to Hudson River remediation measures that involve dredge and landfill efforts of any kind and hereby transmits notice of

such opposition in writing to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol Browner; Region II USEPA Administrator Jeanne M. Fox; U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan; U.S. Senator Alfonse D'Amato; U.S. Representative Gerald B. Solomon; New York Governor George E. Pataki; Acting New York State Environmental Conservation Commissioner John Cahill; New York State Senator Joseph L. Bruno; and New York State Assemblyman Robert D'Andrea.

Kim Gamache

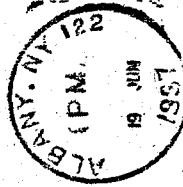
Mayor Kim Gamache ①

Kimberly LeBaron

Village Clerk, Kimberly LeBaron ②

SEAL:

Village of Schuylerville  
55 Spring St., P.O. Box 56  
Schuylerville, NY 12871-0056



Honorable Carol Browner, Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street SW  
Washington, D.C.

20460

10.5614

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

Environmental Quality  
Route 86 - PO Box 296  
Ray Brook, NY 12977 - 0296



(518) 897-1241  
(518) 897-1245 (Fax)

John P. Cahill  
Acting Commissioner

July 1, 1997

Mayor Kim Gamache  
Village of Schuylerville  
35 Spring Street  
Schuylerville, NY 12871

Re: Resolution

Dear Mayor Gamache:

Commissioner Cahill asked me to respond to the Village Board regarding their Resolution No. 1, as forwarded to him by you and Town Clerk Kimberly LeBaron.

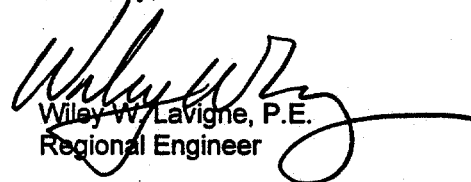
The Department wishes to thank the Board for its continued concern, input and involvement in reaching final resolution on this long standing and damaging contamination of one of the State's most treasured resources, the Hudson River.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is charged with the decision to dredge or not to dredge, albeit with our concurrence. At this time no decision has been made by EPA and it will be about two years before a decision is issued. The public is, and will continue to be, incorporated in EPA's decision making process so as to achieve a balanced solution by taking into account their perspectives, knowledge, and values. A decision by EPA will be preceded by the release of a preferred remedy (i.e., proposed decision) followed by a formal period of public comment. The intent of public participation is to accommodate the legitimate interests of individuals and groups that are truly representative of the effected community.

The decisions EPA must eventually make for the Hudson River may be among, if not, their most complex for any site across the United States. Thereby the input of the Board will help them to craft the best possible solution.

Again, I wish to thank the Board for its concern, input and involvement in finding the best solution for addressing the PCB contamination in the Hudson River.

Sincerely,

  
Wiley W. Lavigne, P.E.  
Regional Engineer

WWL:DLS:krs

10.5615

July 1, 1997

bc: D. Tomchuk, USEPA  
S. Buchanan  
M. O'Toole  
W. Demick  
D. Steenberge