



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

70118

NOV 25 1997

Joan Parsons, Secretary
Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks
Warren County Municipal Center
1340 State Route 9
Lake George, New York 12845-9803

Dear Ms. Parsons:

This is in response to your letters of October 29, 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 Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks in which the Committee 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,

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

bcc: OEX
Ann Rychlenski, CD
Paul Simon, ORC

10/16/97

INTERCOUNTY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE
ADIRONDACKS

WARREN COUNTY MUNICIPAL CENTER
1340 STATE ROUTE 9
LAKE GEORGE, NEW YORK 12845-9803

William Thomas, Chairman
Phone: (518) 251-2421 (Office)
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Joan Parsons, Secretary
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Attached is a copy of Resolution No. 12, adopted by the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks at their meeting held on the 16th day of October, 1997.

Joan Parsons, Secretary

Representing the Counties of:
Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Warren and Washington

INTERCOUNTY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ADIRONDACKS

Resolution No. 12 of 1997

RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROPOSED PCB DREDGING IN HUDSON RIVER

WHEREAS, the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks opposes the proposed PCB dredging in the Hudson River, and relates the following:

1. PCB contamination of the upper Hudson River ended more than twenty (20) years ago, and the PCB level has greatly declined during the past twenty (20) years;
2. The Environmental Protection Agency is considering the permanent remediation plan of dredging the river bottom and depositing the contaminants in a landfill, and
3. Dredging may halt the natural processes and a landfill will certainly create a new site of contamination, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks hereby opposes any dredging of the upper Hudson River and urges other more suitable remediations for its PCB contamination, and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carl Browner; Region II Administrator Geanne M. Fox; D.E.C.

Commissioner John P. Cahill; New York State Association of Counties; Governor George E. Pataki; Congressman Gerald B. Solomon; Senator Ronald B. Stafford; Senator Daniel P. Moynihan; Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato; and Assemblywoman Elizabeth Little.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks on the 16th day of October, 1997.



Joan Parsons, Secretary
Intercounty Legislative Committee
of the Adirondacks

Representing the counties of:
Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Warren and Washington