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

MAR 13 1998

Suzanne Putnam, Town Clerk
Town of Grafton
P.O. Box 80
Grafton, New York 12082

Dear Ms. Putnam:

This is in response to your letter of January 23, 1998 to EPA Administrator Carol Browner, and others, regarding the Hudson River PCBs site. Your letter forwards a copy of a recent Resolution by the Town of Grafton in which the Town expresses its support for the Hudson River PCBs Site Reassessment being conducted by EPA.

EPA appreciates the support from members of the Hudson River community with respect to the Reassessment study that we are currently conducting. As you know, the Reassessment, when completed, will include a detailed characterization of the PCB contamination in the Upper Hudson River, calculation of the human health and ecological risks associated with the contamination, and the evaluation of remedial alternatives to address the contamination. EPA is committed to completing the Reassessment in an expeditious manner.

Your support is particularly appreciated because "community acceptance" is an important factor to be considered when the Agency ultimately makes a remedial decision for the Upper Hudson River sediments. EPA will keep the public informed of its findings regarding the Reassessment. For further information with respect to this site, please contact Ann Rychlenski at (212) 637-3672.

Sincerely yours,

Richard L. Caspe, Director
Emergency and Remedial Response Division

10.5798

1/12/98

RESOLUTION OF THE GRAFTON TOWN BOARD
IN SUPPORT OF
EPA' REASSESSMENT OF PCBs IN THE HUDSON RIVER
AND THE
EVALUATION OF POTENTIAL REMEDIAL ACTIONS

On January 12, 1998 at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Grafton, the following resolution was presented and moved to be adopted by Supervisor SAWYER and seconded by Councilwoman CLAUS.

Whereas, the health and beauty of the Hudson River is critical to the economic vitality of our community and the Hudson River is a treasured asset; and

Whereas, nearly 200 miles of the Hudson River - from Hudson Falls to New York City - are a federal Superfund site due to polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination and;

Whereas, PCBs are the most significant contaminant limiting full use and enjoyment of the Hudson River; and

Whereas, PCBs were banned in 1976 because of a variety of known and suspected impacts on humans and wildlife; and

Whereas, PCBs remain in the Hudson River exposing humans and wildlife to their effects; and

Whereas, an estimated \$40 million annually has been lost over the last twenty years because of the closure of Hudson River commercial fisheries and restrictions on recreationally caught fish. As a result, the Hudson Valley has lost an important cultural heritage and way of life and the economic vitality of the Hudson River region continues to be hampered by the limitations on recreational use of the River and the stigma of PCB contamination; and

Whereas, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Superfund officials determined in February 1997 that PCB "hot spots" in the sediment of the upper Hudson are the "dominant source" of PCB contamination to the River, and that microbial breakdown will not rid the River of PCBs; and

Whereas, The EPA's Hudson River Reassessment has determined that without remediation, present levels of contamination will continue indefinitely, and

Therefore, be it resolved that the Town of Grafton hereby expresses it's support for the Hudson River Reassessment being conducted by the U.S. EPA under the Superfund, including evaluation of the feasibility of potential remedial action that can most effectively restore the Hudson River, including the evaluation of traditional disposal methods as well as innovative technologies that can be used to destroy PCBs. Further, the Town of Grafton urges that the U.S. EPA complete the Hudson River Reassessment as expeditiously as possible.

The Town Board members present were:

Voting

Janet M. Smith, Councilwoman
Margaret A. Claus, Councilwoman
Michael J. Crandall, Councilman
William J. Nugent, Councilman
Tyler F. Sawyer, Supervisor

AYE
AYE
AYE
AYE
AYE

The Town Board members absent were:

None

Dated: January 12, 1998

① *Suzanne Putnam*
Grafton Town Clerk