



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

70152

JUN 15 1998

Deborah L. Weber, Clerk
Essex County Board of Supervisors
Government Center
P. O. Box 217 Court Street
Elizabeth Town, New York 12932-0217

Dear Ms. Weber:

This is in response to your letter of March 2, 1998 to EPA regarding the Hudson River PCBs Site. Your letter forwards a copy of a recent Resolution by the Essex County Board of Supervisors in which the Board expresses its opposition to any remediation measure associated with the Hudson River PCBs Reassessment involving the dredging and landfilling of hazardous waste, specifically PCB-contaminated sediments from the Hudson River.

EPA is aware of the concerns of the Hudson River Valley community associated with potential dredging of PCB-contaminated sediments from the Upper Hudson River. 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. Subsequently, EPA has not yet determined whether it will be appropriate or necessary to construct a hazardous waste landfill for the disposal of PCB contaminated sediments from the 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", various dredging alternatives, and possible disposal alternatives.

As with any decision concerning the Site, "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. Therefore, we will continue to keep you informed of the findings of the Reassessment. If you have any questions or require more information, please contact Ann Rychlenski at (212) 637-3672.

Sincerely yours,

Richard L. Caspe, Director
Emergency and Remedial Response Division

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE DREDGING OF THE HUDSON RIVER FOR REMOVAL OF PCBs, AND URGING THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO DELAY ITS REASSESSMENT OF SUCH ACTION UNTIL SUCH REMOVAL CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED SAFELY AND WITHOUT RISK TO THE PEOPLE AND PROPERTY IN THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Canon, who moved its adoption.

Upon the passage of a motion to consider from the floor, and the same appearing proper and necessary.

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determined in 1984 that the Upper Hudson River should not be dredged in order to remove PCB's due to the potential environmental and public health dangers and risks; and

WHEREAS, since 1990 EPA has been reassessing its 1984 decision not to dredge the Hudson River; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Solomon has uncovered a secret landfill study conducted at the request of the EPA which identified over 50 potential landfill sites in the Hudson Valley Region; and

WHEREAS, scientific evidence from the National Academy of Sciences discourages dredging for sites as large as the Hudson River since such action will likely raise the level of PCBs downstream of the dredging sites; and

WHEREAS, many communities use water from the Hudson River for drinking water and agricultural purposes, and should the water be contaminated with PCBs due to dredging such could result in the dangerous ingestion of PCBs by the public as well as by fish, wildlife and domestic animals, and in PCBs turning up in agricultural produce; and

WHEREAS, the Hudson River has its origin in Essex County; and

WHEREAS, it is the strong sense of this Board of Supervisors that dredging of the Hudson River to remove PCBs, although a laudable goal, should not be done at the present time or until the same can be accomplished safely and without risk to persons and property in the Hudson River Valley.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Essex County Board of Supervisors hereby expresses its strong opposition to the dredging of the Hudson River for removal of PCBs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board hereby urges the Environmental Protection Agency to delay its reassessment of such action until such removal can be accomplished safely and without risk to the people and property in the Hudson River Valley; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of this Board is hereby authorized and directed to immediately send certified copies of this resolution to: President William J. Clinton; United States Senators Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Alfonse M. D'Amato; United States Representatives Gerald B. Solomon and John M. McHugh; Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott; Senate Minority Leader Thomas A. Daschle; Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich; House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt; EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner; Governor Pataki; Senate Majority Leader Bruno; Senator Stafford; Assembly Speaker Silver; and Assembly Members Little and Ortloff.

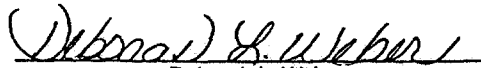
This resolution was duly seconded by Mr. Connery and adopted.

STATE OF NEW YORK)
COUNTY OF ESSEX)

I, DEBORAH L. WEBER, Clerk of the Essex County Board of Supervisors, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy with the original resolution filed in this office on the 2nd day of March, 1998, and that it is a correct and true copy thereof.

IN TESTIMONY THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 2nd day of March, 1998.




Deborah L. Weber
Clerk of the Essex County Board of Supervisors

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