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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2  
290 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

JUN 16 1998

Susan Steadinger, Town Clerk  
Town of Hoosick  
P. O. Box 17  
Hoosick Halls, New York 12090

Dear Ms. Steadinger:

This is in response to your letter of February 9, 1998 to EPA regarding the Hudson River PCBs Site. Your letter forwards a copy of a recent Resolution by the Town of Hoosick in which the Town 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard L. Caspe".

Richard L. Caspe, Director  
Emergency and Remedial Response Division

RESOLUTION NO. 23, 1998

**TOWN OF HOOSICK  
REGULAR MEETING**

February 9, 1998

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING DREDGING OF THE UPPER HUDSON  
RIVER AND CREATION OF A TOXIC WASTE LANDFILL**

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is reassessing its 1984 decision not to dredge the Upper Hudson River to remove buried sediment containing PCBs, and

**WHEREAS**, the EPA has recently released a report that suggests the Agency may be preparing to reverse its position and order dredging, and

**WHEREAS**, PCB landfill projects have twice before been proposed for agricultural properties in the Town of Fort Edward and have twice been stopped through legal action, political action and the vigilance of citizens of Fort Edward, Washington County and surrounding communities, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Fort Edward has steadfastly opposed Upper Hudson River remediation options that involve PCB dredge-and-landfill projects of any kind, and has asked other municipalities to join Fort Edward in opposition to such projects based on their negative regional impacts, and

**WHEREAS**, a PCB dredge-and-landfill project would have significant, long-term adverse environmental, economic and social consequences for all Upper Hudson River communities, especially affecting the agricultural industry, which depends on consumer confidence in the purity of its products, confidence likely to be undermined by the presence of a hazardous waste landfill; and especially impairing the continuing efforts to make local communities attractive places to live, work and raise families because a PCB landfill would destroy forever the pastoral quality of life that is our greatest asset, and

**WHEREAS**, a Hudson River dredging project would disrupt normal recreational use of the river and jeopardize future public and private investments in river-related amenities affecting the entire Upper Hudson region, and

**WHEREAS**, the mere possibility of a PCB dredge-and-landfill project adversely affects land values throughout the Upper Hudson region and discourages private investment that might lead to

the creation of new jobs, and

**WHEREAS**, representatives of Washington County and many local governments have taken an active role in EPA's public meetings and have repeatedly asked EPA to evaluate all of the adverse impacts of a PCB landfill on the resources and economy of the county, and

**WHEREAS**, EPA has conducted no such evaluation and has made no commitment to conduct such an evaluation before any decision to establish a PCB landfill is reached, and

**WHEREAS**, a significant body of scientific evidence demonstrates that conditions in the Hudson River are improving, with PCB levels declining in water, sediment and fish, such that the State of New York has reopened the catch-and-release fishery in the Upper River, and

**WHEREAS**, dredging contaminated sediments has been shown to be ineffective in improving environmental conditions elsewhere, and

**WHEREAS**, there is no credible scientific evidence that dredging sediments from the bottom of the Hudson River would significantly accelerate the improvements already taking place as a result of ongoing remediation work and the river's natural recovery processes, and

**WHEREAS**, EPA itself determined in 1984 that a major dredging project "could be environmentally devastating to the river ecosystem and cannot be considered to adequately protect the environment," (USEPA, Superfund Record of Decision at Page 8) and determined that "the actual reliability and effectiveness of current dredging technologies in this particular situation is subject to considerable uncertainty," (Decision at Page 11), and

**WHEREAS**, EPA recognized that the many tons of material to be removed in a dredging project would require an "impractically large containment facility" (Decision at Page 8), and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Hoosick finds 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

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Hoosick finds that a dredge-and-landfill project would be a gross, unwarranted and unnecessary insult to the Hudson River itself and the communities of the Upper Hudson region, now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Hoosick, in concert with the Town Board of the Town of Fort Edward, hereby expresses its opposition to Hudson River remediation efforts 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. Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan and U.S. Sen. Alphonse D'Amato; U.S. Rep. Gerald B. Solomon; New York Gov. George E. Pataki; Acting New York State Environmental Conservation Commissioner John Cahill; New York State Sen. Ronald B. Stafford, and New York State Assemblyman Bobby D'Andrea and New York State Assemblywoman Elizabeth Little.

The foregoing Resolution, offered by Stan Brownell and seconded by Donna Cipperly, was duly put to a roll call vote as follows:

COUNCILMAN O'MALLEY  
COUNCILMAN CIPPERLY  
COUNCILMAN BRENNSTUHL  
COUNCILMAN BROWNELL  
SUPERVISOR ST. HILAIRE

VOTING AYE  
VOTING AYE  
VOTING AYE  
VOTING AYE  
VOTING AYE

The foregoing Resolution was (~~XXXX~~) thereupon declared duly adopted.

Dated: February 9, 1998

*Susan Steadman, Town Clerk*