



70156
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

JUN 16 1998

Elma A. Savosky, Village Clerk
Village of Kinderhook
P. O. Box 325
Kinderhook, New York 12106

Dear Ms. Savosky:

This is in response to your letter of February 25, 1998 to EPA Administrator Carol Browner regarding the Hudson River PCBs Site. Your letter forwards a copy of a recent Resolution by the Village of Kinderhook in which the Village 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

1/14/98

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

Mayor Phillips offered the following resolution:

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 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 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 Village of Kinderhook hereby expresses its 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 Village of Kinderhook urges that the U.S. EPA complete the Hudson River Reassessment as expeditiously as possible.

The resolution was seconded by Trustee Leiser.

Vote: Mayor Phillips	aye
Trustee Dunham	aye
Trustee Leiser	aye
Trustee Hotaling	nay
Trustee Baumeister	nay

I certify that this is a true copy of a resolution passed by the Village Board of the Village of Kinderhook on January 14, 1998.


Village Clerk