

40215

June 16, 2000

Honorable Carol Browner
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street
Washington, D.C. 20460

Re: Hudson River PCB Superfund Site

Dear Administrator Browner:

As the local elected leaders of communities located along the Upper Hudson River, we represent the thousands of upstate New Yorkers who would be most directly affected by a large-scale, dredging-and-dumping project to remove Hudson River PCBs.

These residents vehemently oppose such a project. We hear this opposition almost every day – in our municipal offices, at the neighborhood supermarket, at the local post office and other gathering places. It is overwhelming.

Local business owners, farmers, mill workers and senior citizens – all voice their concern about the impacts of a massive dredge-and-dump project, particularly one that would take 10 years or more to complete and would require a Yankee Stadium-sized landfill on what is now productive farmland in Washington County.

You are most likely aware of this unified stand against removing PCBs from the Upper Hudson River, as a result of the nearly 60 anti-dredge-and-dump resolutions passed by local governments in Washington, Saratoga, Rensselaer and Warren counties.

To date, EPA representatives have reiterated, time and time again, the claim that no decision has yet been made to dredge-and-dump Hudson River PCBs. We find this very difficult to believe. EPA has already conducted a study to identify potential sites in the upper river communities for a future PCB dump. All of EPA's recent reports and public comments indicate that the Agency's focus is on the buried PCBs in the Thompson Island Pool – not those coming in recently from Hudson Falls.

With a proposed Feasibility Study and Remedial Plan due out in December of this year, EPA must have already decided the future of the Upper Hudson. We, the undersigned, believe now is the appropriate time to meet with you to discuss the specific adverse environmental, economic and social consequences such a plan will have on all Upper Hudson communities. To wait until after the document is released this year will not allow enough time for analysis of these critical issues.

Please give serious consideration to our request to meet with you. There is no issue of greater importance to our residents, and your willingness to hear their concerns,

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and answer their questions, will demonstrate your commitment to ensuring the future well-being of the communities we represent.

Sincerely,

Giles J. Williams
Town of Apple Supervisor

John R. Casey
Town of Granville Supervisor

Paul J. Greber
Supervisor, Town of Cambridge

Donald B. Wilbur
Town of GREENWICH

Robert B. De
Dorset Town Supervisor

Leonard v. Reed
Town of Hampton

David B. Shaw
Supervisor Town of Easton Super. To Hartford

Kenneth F. Wheeler
Super. To Hartford

John C. Pland
Town of Fort Ann

Arch R. Craig
Supervisor Hebron

Meredith Pulver
Town of Fort Edward

Walter A. Cury
Town of White Creek

Jeab
Town of Putnam

Alan Brown, Sup
Town of Jackson

Deer L. Gould, Sup.
Town of Kingsbury

Bruce A Ferguson Sup.
Town of Salem