



70219

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2  
290 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

AUG - 7 2000

William J. Mevec, Town Clerk  
503 Geyser Road  
Ballston Spa, New York 12020

Dear Mr. Mevec:

This letter is in response to your letter dated June 28, 2000 to EPA concerning the Hudson River PCBs site Reassessment Study in which the Milton Town Board expresses its opposition to any dredging option to address hazardous waste, specifically PCB-contaminated sediments, in the Hudson River and requests a comprehensive peer review for the Reassessment.

EPA is aware of public concerns regarding PCB-contaminated sediments in the Hudson River. However, EPA has not yet determined whether it will be appropriate or necessary to select a dredge and landfill option in order to address PCB contamination in the Upper Hudson River. Such a decision will be made only after EPA completes the Reassessment of the Hudson River PCBs site which will include, among other things, a detailed characterization of the PCB contamination in the Upper Hudson River and the risks associated with that contamination, and an analysis of remedial options for addressing the PCB-contaminated sediments. EPA is scheduled to announce its preferred remedial option for the Hudson River PCBs site in December 2000, and to issue a final remedial decision for the site in June 2001. EPA will accept public comment on its preferred remedial option and respond to significant public comments on its proposal in a responsiveness summary to be issued together with the Agency's final decision.

With respect to the peer review process, EPA's policy generally requires the Agency to subject to peer review those major Agency technical work products, such as risk assessments and technical models, that are innovative or focus on significant emerging issues and serve to support Agency decision-making. At the Hudson River PCBs site, specific issues in EPA's scientific work have been reviewed in four distinct sessions. Further, the purpose of the peer review is to ensure that EPA's science is technically sound; it is not intended to be a forum in which the peer reviewers judge what they believe to be the best among two or possibly more scientific work products. EPA therefore will not provide a side-by-side peer review involving EPA's and General Electric's reports. Nevertheless, EPA provided the peer reviewers with copies of public comments received on its reports and the Agency's responses to these comments, which included a copy of GE's modeling report and EPA's response to that report.

We hope that this letter addresses your concerns. EPA appreciates your interest in the Reassessment process, and we encourage you to continue to express your concerns regarding the Reassessment.

Internet Address (URL) • <http://www.epa.gov>

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10.6138

If you have any questions or require more information, please feel free to contact Ann Rychlenski at (212) 637-3672.

Sincerely yours,

Richard L. Caspe, Director  
Emergency and Remedial Response Division



Town Clerk's Office

503 Geyser Road • Ballston Spa, New York 12020  
(518) 885-9220

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June 28, 2000

Ms. Carol Browner, Administrator  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, S.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20460

Dear Ms. Browner:

Enclosed is one resolution passed by the Town Board of the Town of Milton, regarding the  
Town of Milton Opposition to the Dredging of Hudson River.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William J. Mevec", written in a cursive, flowing style.

William J. Mevec  
Town Clerk

WJM/mam

Enclosures

10.6141

RECEIVED

EPA

CORR. CONTROL

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200 JUL - 3 AM 8:39

TOWN OF MILTON  
RESOLUTION #32-2000

RESOLUTION REQUESTING UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO CONDUCT PEER REVIEW AND/OR RECONCILIATION OF ALL MODELING INFORMATION RELATING TO THE HUDSON RIVER SUPERFUND PCB REASSESSMENT AND NOT RECOMMEND DREDGING

Introduced by: Councilman John W. Gobo

Seconded by: Councilman Louis J. Gnip

WHEREAS, the Hudson River is a major and important resource and recreation area for New York State and the County of Saratoga, forming the northerly and easterly boundaries of Saratoga County; and

WHEREAS, in 1998 the Hudson River was designated as one of the nation's first American Heritage Rivers; and

WHEREAS, many residents of the Town of Milton have used, and continue to use the Hudson River for recreational purposes; and

WHEREAS, the problems involving the discharge of PCBs into the Hudson River from two (2) General Electric plants located in Fort Edward and Hudson Falls, have been a source of major concern for an area stretching from Hudson Falls to the Battery; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has identified the Hudson River as a Federal Superfund Site and is presently conducting a Federal Hudson River Superfund PCB reassessment to determine whether remedial action is warranted; and

WHEREAS, the County of Saratoga, with the assistance of its Environmental Management Council, has since 1992 been actively involved in reviewing and commenting on various Hudson River Superfund Federal PCB reassessment reports completed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency and General Electric have recently completed independent modeling reports with disparate conclusions, which will be instrumental in determining the degree of health and ecological risks posed by PCB contamination of the Hudson River, and ultimately, the decision of whether to dredge or not; and

WHEREAS, the importance of utilizing the most scientifically correct models in determining health and ecological risks cannot be overstated; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Milton believes all modeling information should be reviewed, and dredging is not the answer to the problem.

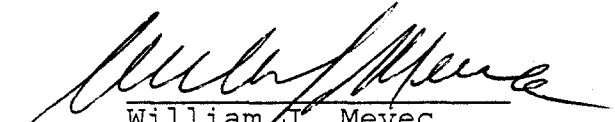
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Milton requests, due to the importance of the Hudson River resource, the United States Environmental Protection Agency take the additional time necessary to conduct a comprehensive peer review and/or reconciliation of all modeling information in an effort to use the most scientifically correct reassessment model information, and not approve dredging of the Hudson River; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Milton transmit copies of this Resolution to Carol Browner, Administrator, United States Environmental Protection Agency; Jeanne Fox, Region 2 Administrator, United States Environmental Protection Agency; John Cahill, Commissioner New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; the Hon. George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York, and all state and federal elected officers representing the County of Saratoga; and to the Chairman of the Washington County Board of Supervisors.

By Order of the Town Board of the Town of Milton by the following vote thereon:

	Yes	No
Wilbur L. Trieble, Supervisor	X	
John W. Gobo, Councilman	X	
Louis J. Gnip, Councilman	X	
Joseph J. Miranda, Jr., Councilman	X	
Hollis F. Blodgett, Councilman	X	

Dated: April 19, 2000

  
William J. Mevec  
Town Clerk