

JAN 22 2001

Carol Roper, Town Supervisor  
Town of New Paltz  
1 Veterans Drive  
P.O. Box 550  
New Paltz, New York 12561

Dear Ms. Roper:

This letter is in response to a Resolution dated November 16, 2000, to EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner regarding the Hudson River PCB's Site. Specifically, the Resolution states that the Town of New Paltz expresses its support for the Hudson River PCB's 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 have been conducting. As you know, EPA released its Proposed Plan for the Hudson River PCB's Site on December 12, 2000, which included EPA's preferred remedy for the Site. Starting on that date, we initiated a public comment period that would have run for more than 60 days and conclude on Friday, February 16, 2001. On January 19, 2001, because of requests to extend the comment period, EPA announced an extension to the public comment period. The comment period will now conclude on Tuesday, April 17, 2001.

Further, EPA has announced additional public meetings at other locations throughout the area over the course of the public comment period. There will be meetings on January 23, 2001 in Poughkeepsie NY, on January 31, 2001 in New York City, on February 6, 2001 in Albany, NY, on February 7, 2001 in Hudson Falls, NY and February 9, 2001 in Haverstraw, NY.

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. For further information with respect to this site or the public meetings please contact Ann Rychlenski at (212) 637-3672.

Sincerely yours,

Richard L. Caspe, Director  
Emergency and Remedial Response Division

**DEPUTY SUPERVISOR**

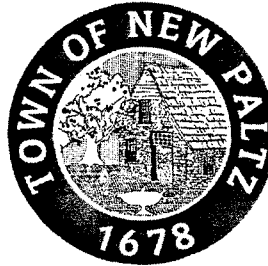
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Nov. 16, 2000

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

**WHEREAS**, the health and beauty of the Hudson River is critical to the economic vitality of our community and the Hudson River is a treasure asset; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hudson River has been designated an American Heritage River, and the Valley as a National Heritage Area; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 200 miles of the Hudson River - from Hudson Falls to New York City - are a federal Superfund site due to the 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**, 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 the 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 Town of New Paltz hereby expresses support for the Hudson River Reassessment being conducted by the U.S. EPA under the Superfund, and urges EPA to complete the HR Reassessment without further delay, including the evaluation and timely implementation of remedial actions, including environmental dredging, 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 Town of New Paltz urges that the U.S. EPA complete the Hudson River reassessment as expeditiously as possible.

  
Carol Roper, Town Supervisor

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