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March 23, 1998

Douglas J. Tomchuk  
Emergency and Remedial Response Division  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
290 Broadway, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10007

**RE: SUMMARY OF RESEARCH EFFORTS:  
ORIGIN OF PCB LOADING IN THE THOMPSON ISLAND POOL**

Dear Mr. Tomchuk:

Please find enclosed 3 copies of the report entitled: *Thompson Island Pool Sediment PCB Sources*. As discussed in this report, the quantity of PCBs leaving the Thompson Island Pool (TIP) is significantly lower than had been estimated using data collected by either EPA or GE. This is because the waters sampled from these western shore stations generally had a longer residence time within the TIP than the average waters flowing past the TID. As a result, these waters accumulated more than the average amount of PCBs through interaction with surface sediments. Weather and river flow permitting, we have been collecting water samples, since September 1997, from a location immediately downstream of the TID that yields samples that give a more accurate estimate of the actual quantity of PCB leaving the TIP. We will continue this monitoring effort.

In addition to the above, the following findings are also discussed in the report:

- The source of the load leaving the TIP is from relatively undechlorinated PCB in surface sediments, not PCB from the more deeply buried so-called "hot spots".
- Surface sediments downstream of TID contribute PCBs to the water column in a manner consistent with the TIP sediments, increasing the PCB loading by approximately 50% between TID and Schuylerville.

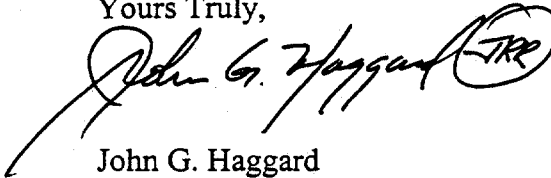
These findings are at odds with some of the conclusions contained in the February 1997 Data Evaluation and Interpretation Report issued by EPA. After you and your technical team have had an opportunity to review this document, I suggest we meet to discuss any significant

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disagreements with the findings contained in the report or any clarifications that may be required. I will call you shortly to arrange such a meeting.

Please place a copy of this letter and report into the Administrative Record being developed for the upper Hudson River Superfund PCB site.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John G. Haggard", with a circled "JRH" monogram to the right.

John G. Haggard

encl:

cc: William McCabe, U.S. EPA  
Douglas Fisher, U.S. EPA  
Jon Butcher, TetraTech  
William Ports, NYDEC (3 copies)  
Victor Bierman, Limno-Tech (3 copies)  
Jay Field, NOAA (3 copies)  
Charlie Menzie, Menzie Cura (2 copies)  
Ed Garvey, TAMS (2 copies)