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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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MAP - 9 1009

Mr. John G. Haggard
General Electric Corporation
1 Computer Drive South
Albany, New York 12205

Re: Hudson River PCBs Site - Peer Review of Data Evaluation and Interpretation Report (DEIR) and Low Resolution Sediment Coring Report (LRC)

Dear Mr. Haggard:

This is in response to your letter of February 19, 1999, in which you request that a GE representative be allowed to make a presentation at the peer review meeting on the DEIR and LRC to be held from March 16 through 18, 1999.

As EPA has explained to GE in the past, it is not appropriate to include GE reports in the documents being peer reviewed, nor to have GE presentations at the peer meetings. The purpose of the upcoming peer review is to have independent experts review the scientific analyses in the DEIR and the LRC, and their respective responsiveness summaries, to determine whether they are technically adequate, competently performed, properly documented, and satisfy established quality requirements. The peer review is not intended to be a forum in which reviewers will be asked to judge between different scientific approaches. Rather, the purpose of the peer review is to have the reviewers evaluate whether the DEIR and the LRC are based on sound, credible science. As such, the Agency must respectfully deny your request to make such a presentation.

As with the Modeling Approach Peer Review, observers will be afforded an opportunity to make limited comments. We hope that GE will respect the spirit of the time limits on observer comments at this and all future peer reviews.

If you have any questions regarding this, please contact Douglas Tomchuk at 212-637-3956.

Sincerely yours,

William McCabe, Deputy Director
Emergency and Remedial Response Division

cc: Bill Ports, NYSDEC
Heidi Schultz, ERG
✓ Douglas Fischer, USEPA