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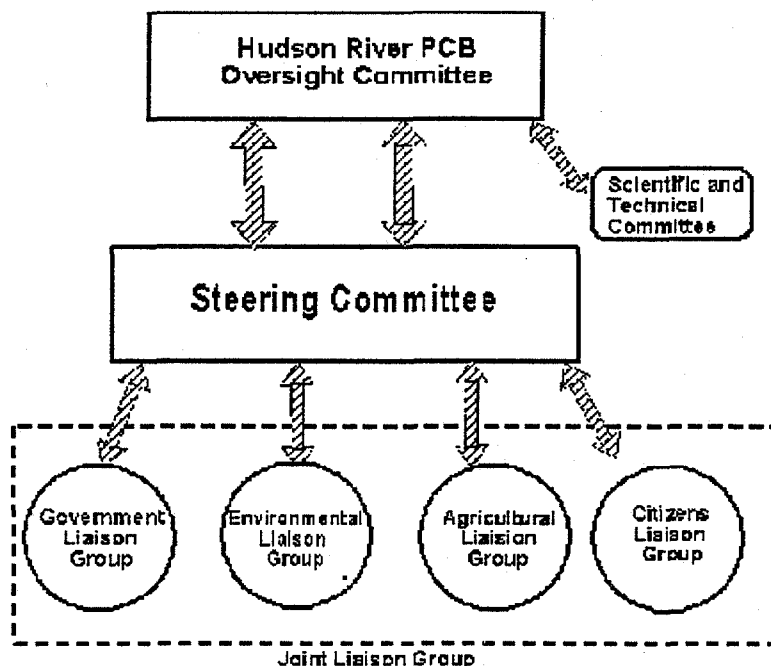
**EPA** United States Environmental Protection Agency
REGION 2 New Jersey, New York,
Puerto Rico & U.S. Virgin Islands**Superfund****Hudson River PCBs**[Search](#)[Subject Index](#)[Contact EPA](#)[Data Access](#)[EPA Main Page](#)[FAQ's](#)[FOIA](#)[EPA News](#)[Library](#)**Public Participation**

Public participation is a key element in the Superfund process. The public needs to be informed of study findings, site activities and the decision-making process. In turn, the EPA needs to hear public opinion and to address the questions and concerns of all interested parties. The need to maintain this avenue of communication and to actively encourage public participation has inspired the community relations programs which parallel and complement the technical work at each Superfund site.

The Community Interaction Program (CIP)

The Hudson River PCBs Reassessment project has been unusual from a community relations standpoint. The site history is such that from the beginning it was evident that the project would prove of enormous interest to citizens, government officials, environmental groups, and private interest groups in a geographic area which extends two hundred river miles from Fort Edward, New York to the Battery in New York City. To address public participation for a project of this magnitude, EPA designed the Community Interaction Program (CIP), unique among Superfund community relations programs.

**Community Interaction Program
for the Hudson River PCBs Site Reassessment**



The Community Interaction Program (CIP) is a tiered process composed of six working groups at three levels. The foundation consists of four Liaison Groups: Governmental, Environmental, Citizen and Agricultural. Each of these groups has an elected Chair and two Co-Chairs, who represent their respective groups on the other committees which make up the CIP. All public concerns, issues, and questions are initially presented in the four Liaison Groups and flow from there upward to the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee comprises the Chairs and Co-Chairs of the Liaison Groups, two representatives of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the EPA Project Manager(s), and is chaired by the EPA Community Relations Coordinator for the site. The Steering Committee is charged with ensuring that issues of public import presented by the Liaison Groups are heard, and that all opinions are considered. Issues and concerns which cannot be addressed at the Steering Committee are sent as action items to the Hudson River PCB Oversight Committee (HROC).

The Hudson River PCB Oversight Committee (HROC) is made up of the representatives of federal and state agencies that exercise some jurisdiction over the Hudson River, the Chair of each of the four Liaison Groups, EPA's Project Manager and Community Relations Coordinator, and General Electric. It is chaired by the EPA Deputy Director of Superfund. HROC's function is to address action items raised by the public (via the Steering Committee) that require resolution at a higher level of authority. In addition, HROC members offer clarification of policy issues pertinent to their particular jurisdictions as required.

The Scientific & Technical Committee (STC) is made up of a membership of researchers and scientists familiar with the site, PCBs, modeling, toxicology, and other relevant disciplines. They are tasked to review and provide peer

input on documents provided by EPA and to identify additional sources of information and ongoing research relevant to the Reassessment, and may identify issues or topics of a technical nature that should be raised to HROC. They may also make presentations in their particular areas of expertise to the rest of the body, HROC, EPA, or other groups participating in the Community Interaction Program. STC meetings are guided by a facilitator who ensures that avenues of discussion and investigation are productive and pertinent to the Reassessment. Please note: the STC does not constitute peer review.

Organizational Details

Liaison groups may meet individually or jointly at any time. EPA calls Joint Liaison Group meetings at milestones in the project (the release of a report or important new information) to which the general public is also invited.

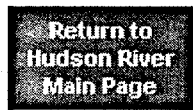
The Steering Committee and Hudson River PCB Oversight Committee (HROC) meet quarterly (two meetings per year per committee).

The Scientific & Technical Committee (STC) meets at project milestones (generally associated with the release of a report or new information).

More detailed information on the CIP can be found in the Community Relations Plan for the Hudson River PCBs Reassessment at the information repositories established for this site. If you wish to join any of the Liaison Groups, you may contact Ann Rychlenski, Community Relations Coordinator at 212-637-3672.

Information Repositories - a list of locations where the Hudson River PCBs Reassessment documents are available to the public.

Press Release Archive - a files of press releases relating to the Hudson River PCBs site Reassessment.



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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfnd/hudson/public-participation.htm>
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