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ERRATA SHEETS

Date: 1-31-01

Hudson River PBCs Public Meeting

10.7480

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for around a half an hour to give you

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some sense of just where we are, how

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we've gotten there, and from that then

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we'll open up the comments, as Ann

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suggested.

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Let me start off by saying that I

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put a map up here, I hope you can all

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see it, it shows the whole Hudson River

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site. The whole Hudson River site is

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200 miles long, it runs from something

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slightly above Rogers Island and Fort

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Edward and runs down through the Battery

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in New York City for a 200-mile stretch.

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That's the length of the site.

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The study area, on the other hand,

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really, what we did the intensive study

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on is the 40 miles above Detroit down,

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which is basically slightly above

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Albany, which is what we call the Upper

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Hudson. That is a source area, that is

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the area that contains the great amounts

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of contamination and the highest

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concentrations, less as acted sources

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[inaudible]. That's where we

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We know that people are eating the fish in the Upper Hudson River despite fish advisories from New York State which say eat none. The latest study done by New York State Department of Health in 1996 found that one in six people that they interviewed, in fact, had fish in their possession, and roughly one in ten had more than one fish in their possession. We know that the birds and other animals are eating the fish.

We know, if you look at this site, go to the next slide, please, Doug, we took that Upper Hudson River and we broke it into three sections. The first section, the upper-most northern one is what we call the Thompson Island Pool. It's roughly six miles long and it is the most contaminated portion of the river. When you talk about hot spots in the river, it contains 20 of the 40 historical hot spots.

We have a second section that runs

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from Thompson Island Pool, which is the bottom part of the Thompson Island Pool through the Northumberland Dam, which is roughly five miles long. That's pretty contaminated, as well, you know, and has some problems in it, as well. It contained 15 of the remaining 20 hot spots.

Then we have that last section, section three, which runs the last 29 miles from Northumberland Dam on down to the [inaudible] -- for the land Detroit. That's around 29 miles long, and that has five of the hot spots, of the historical hot spot that we talked about.

We know that the water column, if we measure the water column in that first section from when the water comes in at Fort Edward and moves on down to the Thompson Island Dam, we measure the concentrations of PCBs in the water, we know that that goes up by over three times as the water flows over that area;

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it more than triples. And we know from

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fingerprinting of the type of PCBs, that

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it's the same PCBs that we find in the

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sediment, we know that much.

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We also know there's an upstream

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source. That the GE Hudson Falls plant

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continues through fractured bedrock

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underneath the facility to leak PCBs

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into the Hudson River. We know that

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significant and an important part of any

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remedy we select, that certainly

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dredging is half the remedy, and source

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control, in our mind, is the other half.

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We know that fish contamination is

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there. The levels of contamination in

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fish is nearly stable. If you look at

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the last five to seven years and you

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look at a -- and you look at the variety

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of species in the area, you see that

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fish contamination has not significantly

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dropped. In one species it may drop one

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year, but if you look at it over all as

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a trend, you see no significant

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reduction over the last five to seven

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the remedy we came up with, what we call targeted dredging, I would point out that why we call -- you know, some people say 2.65 million cubic yards, how can that be targeted? Well, it is a 40-mile-long site of a river that runs 400- to 600-feet wide at different places. If you could figure out how much you could come out if you wanted to not target the dredging, simply dredge to remove everything, the numbers would go up by a factor of 10 by order of magnitude over that.

So we looked at the different parts of the river. We looked at the first river section, the river mile one -- I mean section one, excuse me, the six miles, the Thompson Island Pool. There we looked and we saw a significant impacts to fish as a result of what we did. We could reduce by a generation or two generations in some cases when fish would be acceptable or more acceptable for human consumption as well as

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2 by greater amounts, but we couldn't
3 really find a way of doing that, so we
4 came up with the remedy the
5 institutional control, minor to natural
6 attenuation, which is
7 actually watching the river bottom,
8 letting some sedimentation occur, and
9 seeing as time goes on when we could
10 actually reach perfectly safe levels in
11 fish and source control upstream, again,
12 which is half the remedy, it's an
13 important part.

14 The remedy came out to be 2.65
15 million cubic yards of dredging, which
16 would remove roughly a hundred thousand
17 pounds of PCBs from the upper river,
18 cost around \$460 million, and that would
19 be, if you invested the money now and
20 had it ready for construction,
21 construction would actually begin in
22 actually three years from August now.

23 The target dredging I talk of,
24 just to give you a number, I mentioned
25 before that the river is 40 miles long

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and 400 to 600 feet wide, that's roughly 3,900 acres of river bottom. What we're talking about here is disturbing less than 13 percent of that 3,900 acres; somewhat less than 500 acres of it is what we're taking about. Keep the river open to navigation for the entire time. In fact, we'll help mariners and help navigation because in order for us to do it, we have to open channels up. So we'll actually be doing some work, roughly 200,000 cubic yards of work will actually be improving navigation as we move forward.

That's basically the remedy. I'm sure there will be some questions as we go further along.

The watering facilities, we'll need two facilities for water material, I didn't mention that, one on the upper end, one on the lower end. Those would be there for the five-year construction period that we're talking about. People say we can't do it, but

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2 left, and you could see that it runs to
3 the Thompson Island Dam and then to
4 north -- this river section one ends
5 here, river section two would end here,
6 and you can see by the amount of red
7 that in a contamination pool obviously
8 there is quite a bit of dredging,
9 roughly around two to three miles of
10 dredging that might be considered to be
11 almost bank-to-bank, but that's where
12 most of the contamination is.

13 Once you move past the Thompson
14 Island Pool, the amount of dredging
15 becomes much less, and by the time you
16 get into that third section, which is
17 the last 29 miles, you actually see very
18 little red, mostly blue, and so the
19 dredging --

20 Actually, you've got one more
21 slide on this, Doug, right?

22 Yeah, it shows, you can see just
23 how little red there really is and just
24 how targeted this approach really is.

25 Thanks, Doug.

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With that, I'm going to turn it
over to Doug.

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Thank you.

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MR. TOMCHUCK: I just have a couple
of quick comments here to discuss what's
next.

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We are here tonight talking about
our proposed plan, which is, you know,
Superfund -- which explains Superfund's
preferred remedy, EPA's preferred remedy
for addressing the site. We're
accepting public comment on that, we
accept that until April 17. After that,
after we receive all the public comment,
we sort through that and we make sure
that the remedy that we're selecting
addresses that public comment
appropriately.

We then make a Record of Decision,
that's the legal document which
documents the decision that EPA makes on
that, and that also includes a response
in the summary which responds to all the
significant comments made during the

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probably cause cancer in humans. PCBs

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also cause other serious medical

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conditions, such as low birth weight,

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learning problems, and a reduced ability

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to fight infections.

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The State Health Department since

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1976 has issued an eat none advisory for

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the 40 miles of the Upper Hudson River

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for everybody. It's been illegal to

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keep any fish caught from the Hudson

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River. The advisory for the 150 miles

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below, in the lower Hudson below the

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Troy dam depends on fish species and

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locations, is eat none for children

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under the age of 15 and women of child

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bearing age, and we know, as Rich

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mentioned, that people continue to eat

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the fish.

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In wildlife, PCBs are known to

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cause serious reproductive problems in

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mink and may cause problems for river

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otter which eat a lot of fish in their

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diet, also in birds that eat fish, such

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as the bald eagle, the king fisher and

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Rich.

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Thank you.

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MR. CASPE: Thank you. I'd now like to call congressman Maurice Hinchey (phonetic) to the microphone.

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MR. HINCHEY: Thank you very much, and good evening, ladies and gentlemen. First as a citizen of New York and the nation, I want to express my deep appreciation to the Environmental Protection Agency and particularly to the professional men and women of EPA who are responsible for all the work that has gone into this comprehensive, detailed and necessary report. We owe them a great debt of gratitude for the great work that they have done, and I thank you for it.

The Hudson River is a great treasure, and it has been recognized as such in many ways, most recently and importantly by the Congress of the United States and the President. The Hudson River is now a national heritage

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area, so recognized for its great

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contribution to the development of the

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country.

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One of the ways in which it

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contributed to that development was as

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the first principal artery of commerce

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to the nation. It opened up New York,

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and with the construction of the Erie

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Canal, it opened up the west and it

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enabled New York City to succeed in the

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competition with Boston and Philadelphia

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and other places to be the premier

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financial and commercial center and

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capital of the Nation.

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In a real sense, New York City

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owes what it is, its great success, to

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the Hudson River. And now, New York

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City needs to repay that debt and join

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with all of us in working and supporting

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the EPA in this project in making sure

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that this project goes forward because

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it is a difficult task, it faces great

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adversity, it has great enemies. One of

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those enemies, of course, is the agency

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up and down the river from the tiniest biota up to the largest animals at the top of the food chain, and that includes all of us.

We are all, each of us, harbingers of PCBs, and that will only continue as long as those PCBs remain in the environment. They must be taken out of the environment and put in a place where they can no longer have the effect that they have on all the life that they have affected.

This plan must go forward. We want this plan to go forward because the PCBs are contaminants, they are poisons, and they poison life. They cut life short and they make the animals that it penetrates less healthy.

PCBs are carcinogens and have been shown to be so in every test in every animal, and we know that they are probably carcinogens in men as well, in women as well. They also affect the immune system as we've heard, they

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and commendable Kurt Vonnegut (phonetic),

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who is an author, as you all know, and a

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lifetime resident of New York State.

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This is a letter that was written by

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Kurt, and he wanted to enter it into the

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record.

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When I and my brother Bernard

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worked for General Electric in a decade

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which followed the second World War, the

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company's corporate responsibility bore

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some resemblance to a decent human

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being. Not only a prod of ambition, but

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embarrassment, apologizing for some

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obviously damaging thing that it had

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done. To live near a General Electric

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plant used to be like living near a

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giant who respected you and wished you

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well as a neighbor.

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The analog of General Electric's

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corporate responsibility is no longer

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that of a person, but rather that of a

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load of gravel. It is wholly

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emotionless with the health of the area

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from which they get their food and on

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I've got a letter here from

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Monsanto Chemical Company, which is the

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only company producing PCBs as far back

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as, I think as early as the '30s. In

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this letter dated September 20, 1955

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that went to General Electric, it says,

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Monsanto's position can be summarized in

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this fashion: We know aroclors

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(phonetic), which are a trade name for

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PCBs, are toxic, but the actual limit

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has not been precisely defined. It does

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not make too much difference, it seems

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to me, because our main worry is what

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will happen if an individual develops

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any type of liver disease and gives a

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history of aroclor exposure. I am sure

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the juries, the juries in a court of

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law, I'm sure the juries will not pay a

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great deal of attention to MAC's

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(Phonetic). And frankly I don't know what

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that means, but it sounds honest to me.

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But those folks were aware from an

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early stage of how dangerous these

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things were and what kind of legal

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along the banks of the Upper River. We should have and rightly deserve to have our voice not only heard, but to have that voice control the ultimate decision.

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Over 60 communities on the upper river, plus farm bureaus, chambers of commerce, county governments, the New York State business counsel, and the inter-county legislative committee comprising 11 upper New York State counties from Saratoga north through the Canadian border representing 700,000 constituents all agree. We oppose EPA's proposed plan to dredge the PCBs from the Hudson River. We stand united; we are opposed.

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My question: Will EPA follow the National Academy of Science's recommendation to treat the people most affected, the residents most affected on the Upper River as true partners in the final decision-making?

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MR. CASPE: The next speaker is an

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I also want to add that although we talk about the benefits of the Hudson River up in the area of the upper stretches of the river, dredging the Hudson River is also going to help us here in New York City, it's going to help the lower river, it's going to help clean up our waters, too, and we'd like that taken into consideration.

Thank you.

MR. CASPE: Thank you.

I would just clarify on one point, that the issue of legal or illegal discharge actually has nothing to do with regard to liability under the superfund program, it makes no difference.

The next speaker is Robert Kafin representing General Electric Company.

MR. KAFIN: Mr. Caspe, did you read the card that I put in there? Does it say anything about me representing the General Electric Company, or did you make that up?

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subject to a two-minute limitation. So

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one wonders about the open-mindedness of

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EPA in holding the hearing here tonight.

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Now, I'm going to submit some

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written comments on behalf of Cease, and

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I just want to tell you how difficult it

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is for us to do that, because the

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feasibility study describes a remedy and

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it leaves out any of the specifics that

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make it possible for us to render

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meaningful comments.

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Where are the transfer stations

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going to go, in whose community? What

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about the water facility, where are the

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waste water treatment plans going to go?

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How about the rail yards, in whose

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community will they be? The surface

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line for the backfill, where is that

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going to go? Is that going to go in Mo

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Hinchey's district, in Mr. Miller's

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district? We don't know where they are;

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therefore, it makes it impossible for us

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to comment.

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MR. CASPE: Okay, thank you.

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2 MR. KAFIN: In addition, one
3 wonders how is one to evaluate the
4 environmental, economic and social
5 impact of a plan that contains no
6 specificity, and I urge EPA to
7 supplement its feasibility study
8 immediately so that we will be able to
9 furnish meaningful comments as part of
10 the public participation as part of this
11 process that responds to the remedy.

12 MR. CASPE: Okay, thank you.

13 The next speaker is Manna Jo
14 Greene, environmental director for the
15 Environmental Sloop Clearwater.

16 MS. GREEN: I'm also bringing a
17 petition here tonight. I'm bringing a
18 petition from the children, I'm bringing
19 a petition that is about 100 feet long
20 that has been signed by over 1,200
21 children. On this they drew pictures of
22 boats and fish and birds and the things
23 that live about the river, and I'd like
24 to ask, how dare GE knowingly put PCBs
25 into the river over and over, and how

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that eat the fish, and the humans that

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have been endangered by this

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contamination.

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GE's position that to do nothing

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is safer than dredging does not take

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natural catastrophes into consideration,

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even though these catastrophes are

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happening more often in our world today.

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For instance, in the past few years we

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have seen abnormal hurricanes, floods,

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and even earthquakes. The only flooding

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in store then by not disturbing the

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PCBs left in the river bed is not valid

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[inaudible].

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How can GE predict the world's

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whether patterns? Earthquakes are

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possible even in New York. We have

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experienced two minor tremors in the

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last two decades. The Nor Easter that

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occurred some thousand years ago was

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massively destructive. Such a storm

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could cause more than flooding and will

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certainly stir up PCBs.

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We support direct environmental

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I'm here to put a face on guys who live right across the street, which I do.

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I understand it must be very frustrating for the people who come all the way from Fort Edward to have their community disrupted. At the same time, I dealt with a cancer situation a couple of years ago, and personally it's very hard for me to imagine being asked not to care about carcinogens that are in the river. When you can stop all the water from flowing south, I'm happy to cede the idea to you that this is just your problem.

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Also, I'm a documentary film maker, but I also do scientific research for the Smithsonian Institute, mostly in mammal work, but also did some work in mammalogy. I don't see any -- I can't possibly see a situation where species get better by leaving a carcinogen, a toxic in their habitat, it just doesn't happen, and so I urge you to please get

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Since our inception in New York City, we learned a great deal of the New York City -- [inaudible]. What we found is that there's been contamination, and we learned about the hazards of the remediation technology. We found that environmental hydraulic dredging is, in fact, described to prevent resuspension in contamination of sediments. Is it not to be confused -- [inaudible].

We believe that the EPA should specify hydraulic dredging because such removal is the most effective and cost-effective technology for preventing resuspension of contaminants. We support dewatering, stabilization and railway transport to existing hazardous waste landfills. We agree with the EPA's decision to landfill removed sediment in the Hudson River and not use any farmland for disposal or processing.

Though the remediation will be expensive, we believe it is ultimately a small investment that will significantly

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remediating that down here.

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I recognize that there is going to be economic cost to be shouldered by everyone. We have been shouldering it for many years down here; the cost of dredging, for keeping the port open is only going to go up. The EPA has already reduced the allowable threshold of PCBs in dredge spoils, and we commend that, but that means that the cost of dredging can go up a factor of ten.

So what is the actual economic cost to dredging? What is the economic cost of not dredging? What's the benefit to the economy by having our fisheries shut down? What's the benefit to the economy by having tourism shut down? I think we have to take all these things into consideration. \$450 million to do a localized cleanup is a drop in the bucket compared to what the economic cost is going to be to all of us if we don't do it. We're not even talking about what it's going to cost in terms

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Next speaker is Tim Havens.

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MR. HAVENS: My poor little organization couldn't afford quite as many hats as the opposition could afford signs, but maybe we'll talk to them sometime.

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Tim Havens, and I'm from Cape Hudson Falls, New York, and I'm president of the environmental group CEASE. I represent thousands of citizens of many Upper Hudson communities that are opposed to dredging the Hudson River. We, the people of these communities, will have to suffer the consequences of this project which threatens our land, our property values, our municipal infrastructure, and our river.

This proposed dredging project makes many promises of a cleanup which will not happen. Dredging 2.65 mcy of river sludge to try to remove 100,000 lbs of PCBs makes no sense when you have no

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residents' right to quiet of their home.

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I intend to lead my volunteer organization of determined opponents to this atrocious proposal to a satisfactory end. We will fight it until hell freezes over, and then we'll fight on the ice.

MR. CASPE: Next speaker is Jane Havens.

MS. HAVENS: I am from the town of Kingsbury [sic], also, and on November 9 a proposal was squashed in our community of Hudson Falls. A representative of Scenic Hudson kept harping, and I quote, how can you make a decision without information, a very vague statement that seems to be their style. I took their challenge, and thanks to their call to inform, I stand in front of you 100 percent confident that the EPA cannot responsibly undertake the Hudson River project. I have compiled some information on approximately 12 EPA dredging projects.

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Manistee (phonetic) Harbor, MI, PCBs

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have decreased in areas that haven't

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been dredged, they have increased in the

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dredged areas, and that project has

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taken longer than projected.

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The Fox river in Wisconsin, also

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taking longer than proposed, PCB levels

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have spiked from 3.6 parts per million

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to 75 parts per million after dredging.

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In the Grass River in Massena, New York,

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PCB levels in fish have increased 20 to

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50 times during dredging. In the

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St. Lawrence, sediment goals were not

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achieved even after the same locations

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were re-dredged over 30 times.

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In sediment and fish, your

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projects are taking longer than

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projected, and I am sure the total bill

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is also much higher than you proposed.

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You do not know how to undertake these

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projects responsibly and effectively,

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and you are not capable of completing

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projects within knowledge in the time

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proposed, yet you want to attempt a

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project more massive than any other

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smaller project that you have already

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failed at.

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You will not be allowed to destroy

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our community when you have information

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gaps or have not considered the negative

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effects dredging will have. The risk

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grossly outweighs the remedy. Twelve

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projects have only removed in volume

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950,000 cubic yards and have taken a

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total of 115 months. How can you in

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good conscience stand in front of us and

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say you will remove 2.65 million cubic

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yards in only 32 months dredging period

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when you don't even know what type of

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equipment you will use or any other

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information that effects the cost?

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Please respond, Mr. Caspe.

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MR. CASPE: Thank you.

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I could tell you that your

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characterization of dredging success

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running from Manistee certainly through

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the Massena sites, St. Lawrence and

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Grass River is very different than ours.

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the Housatonic River Association. It's been my great pleasure to be able to fish two great river fisheries, the Hudson River and the Housatonic, both decimated by PCB, on which the Housatonic River initiative has essentially moved against GE in being able to reclaim that river [inaudible].

At the same time, striped bass in the Lower Hudson have been found to have over 150 times the FDA's allowable level of two parts per million PCBs in fish. This is particularly onerous because striped bass and shad, both of which I fish for, are an androgenous (phonetic) fish, which means that they not only stay in the Hudson River, but return to the ocean, and the fact that they carry these PCBs from the Upper Hudson and impact below the Lower Hudson even into the Atlantic Ocean is an onerous thing.

This next month will be 25 years from when the EPA banned PCBs in the U.S. The EPA has spent the last 10

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Jacqueline [inaudible] from the Brooklyn

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New School.

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AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is

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Morgan Russell from the Brooklyn New

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School.

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I know for a fact that PCBs are

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dangerous. PCBs have been around for

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many years. Me and my coworkers and

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fellow classmates think the EPA is

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right. I think we should have a vote

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like we do for the election. I want the

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river to be clean so when I have

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children, they can enjoy swimming in the

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river and doing lots of activities.

16

AUDIENCE MEMBER:. For those of you

17

who are voting for GE because you think

18

when they say dredging they mean huge

19

tube trudging across the bottom of the

20

river [inaudible], but really it's just

21

a long vacuum shaped as a tube. All it

22

does is suck up all the soil and PCBs.

23

It does not hurt the fish, and it does

24

not stir up things.

25

You need to remember who is

1

2

the day before, they're very fast moving

3

fish, and we have tagged them and we

4

know, there are statistics.

5

New Jersey is very proud of the

6

fact that we have sent Christie Whitman

7

to the EPA, and we hope that she will

8

take care of her promises about the

9

Hudson River and the pollution problem

10

with the PCBs. I can tell you right now

11

that the stain that comes down from the

12

Upper River, and I feel for the people

13

over there who have this in their

14

backyard, the problem doesn't exist with

15

the EPA that is going to remedy this

16

situation, the problem exists with GE

17

that did the dirty work.

18

I'd just like to say that the

19

fishermen all up and down the river, and

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I'm talking about the people that are on

21

the Harlem River, I'm talking about the

22

people that don't know what the EPA is,

23

I'm talking about the people who pull

24

out a 30 inch striped bass and take it

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home and cook it, cook the whole thing,

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not just the fillets, I'm talking about people who eat the whole fish, they have no idea what PCBs are, they have no idea that this bright, shiny, silver trophy that they have taken home that they are so proud of is polluted and has PCBs in it, and they take it home and they eat it unbeknownst.

Thank you.

MR. CASPE: Nathaniel

Avino-Towsen.

MR. AVINO-TOWSEN: Hi, I'm

Nathaniel Avino-Towsen, I'm a sophomore at Stuyvesant High School, which as many of you may know is right on the Hudson River. This summer I had the pleasure of working on Pier 40 for the Pier Park and Playground Association, also known as P3 which is located on the south side of Pier 40. Pier 40 or P3 is generally designated as a sports recreation facility, but at the end of the pier we also have a facility for fishing where anyone could come and get a fishing rod

1
2 smaller amounts of pollution or the
3 sounds or the lights that are going to
4 be near your house during dredging when
5 the threats of PCBs and cancer and the
6 actual death that is there are very
7 real, and this is why I support the
8 EPA's proposal, and that's why I think
9 General Electric should have to clean up
10 the mess that they made.

11 MR. CASPE: Next speaker is Jeanne
12 Stork.

13 MS. STORK: Hello. I currently
14 live in New York City, but I have lived
15 upstate. I came from upstate, I grew up
16 upstate. I am a recent New Yorker,
17 so I am also the face of upstate New
18 York. I am not going to repeat anything
19 that I have written, but I would like to
20 add some things to it. As many people
21 have said, the main concern is saving
22 human lives and wildlife, in my opinion.
23 Some people have touched in on it a bit.

24 I'm a teacher here in New York
25 City, and I am a volunteer activist with

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Clearly, this is a company that is out of control. A company that has been reckless and ruthless in its pursuit of profit, and a company that is obviously abandoned any sense of corporate responsibility.

GE is clearly of a mindset that if you shout lies loud enough and if you repeat that lie often enough, that lie will eventually -- as we see here tonight -- turn into a perceived truth. That is the foundation upon which they have their deceptive \$48 million campaign.

First they say our dumping of PCB was perfectly legal. Wrong, wrong. As Kit Kennedy said earlier, they have consistently violated their permit, and in addition the judge that wrote that opinion clearly stated that GE violated the New York State environmental conservation law which clearly says that regardless of any permits the company has, it is illegal to discharge

1
2 And to the EPA, I just want to
3 say, the American Indian states that you
4 must always look seven generations
5 ahead, whatever we do on mother earth.

6 I hope it doesn't take until the
7 seventh generation to finally physically
8 remediate this horrendous death sentence
9 on our Hudson River, despite the
10 pressures you are under and we know
11 where they are coming from.

12 I encourage you to implement your
13 plan now.

14 MR. CASPE: Next speaker is
15 Francis Calkrin.

16 Next speak Don Carlson. While he
17 is making his way down, let me give you
18 the next ten.

19 Lori Ennela from NYPIRG, Peter
20 Moran, Karen Farrell, Lori Schuster,
21 Alan Ross, Carol Lee, Brian Mohan, Rick
22 Hill, Allison Enrique and Alex Status.

23 MR. CARLSON: Hello, my name is
24 Don Carlson. I want to thank you for
25 the opportunity to speak here tonight.

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I am deeply concerned about the quality of the environment that my wife and I, my three children and my three grandchildren live in.

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I'm a member of the Sierra Club and I applaud my colleagues for the reference on this issue.

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I'm also a management consultant who has worked for 35 years inside companies like GE. I know what they're up to in resisting this clean-up.

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Fundamentally they are trying to increase their profits and increase their executive bonuses in utter disregard of the health and well-being of millions of people affected by their dumping of PCBs in the river.

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I'm not surprised GE likes us when we buy its products and put money in its pocket, but it turns their back on us when we might cost them something.

23

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25

While not surprised, I'm outraged. I hope and pray EPA will help us. I hope you will persevere in this

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effort against the power of this

3

industrial giant called General

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Electric. Thank you.

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MR. CASPE: The next speaker is

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Joe Ferrara from NYPIRG.

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MR. FERRARA: Good evening.

8

Basically, I'm not going to give you a

9

long-winded speech because I'm sure you

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have heard the facts being here about

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two hours already.

12

Basically what I find particularly

13

disturbing about all this pollution

14

about everything, this is not an

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isolated incident. This is going all

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over our country and all over the

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world. Industrial giants from the

18

United States are leading this.

19

Basically, if for some strange

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reason the EPA does not go through, it

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will not only be a travesty of justice,

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and incredibly morally wrong, but it

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will be a victory for companies like GE

24

-- not only in our country, but in

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foreign countries -- that are tremendous

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polluters and leave a trail of

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devastation in the way wherever they

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go. That's all I have to say. Good

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night.

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MR. CASPE: Next speaker is Vicky

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Jones who is a trustee with the Village

8

of Downsbury.

9

MS. JONES: Good evening. I'm

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Vicky Jones of the Village of Downsbury,

11

located halfway between Yonkers and

12

Tarrytown on the Hudson River.

13

We recently, the Board of trustees

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and the mayor recently passed a

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resolution which has been forwarded to

16

the EPA in support of your proposal. I

17

wanted to tell you that.

18

As a mother of a child, I have two

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children, although my daughter is not

20

one that goes to the river, but my son

21

is now almost 16 and for years has gone

22

down to the Hudson River and has gone

23

fishing for eels and whatever else he

24

might be able to catch.

25

You know, it is very sad for me as

1

2

a mother to see my child go out and fish

3

and say, "Wash your hands when you come

4

home. Don't take any fish back home."

5

This is a child.

6

I had the ability to go out

7

fishing with my father and I come home

8

and I clean my fish and we eat that

9

fish. But my child does not have that

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opportunity.

11

I would ask that the people of

12

Hudson Falls look to the future and

13

think what they can be leaving their

14

generations of their children ahead by

15

cleaning up the river so that their kids

16

will be able to go there, fish and swim

17

without worrying about coming inside,

18

washing up, cleaning up as quick as

19

possible because of the contaminants

20

that are in their water.

21

It is a very real threat. And I'm

22

sorry that they fear the noise and the

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madness of this clean-up. But I look

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forward to the day that Hastings-on-

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Hudson's Superfund site causes noise and

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We also know that if it weren't for GE's intervention, this river would have been cleaned up a long time ago.

GE has lost on the science. EPA is to be commended on the job you have done on documenting the problems of this river and scoping out a plan for how those problems can be solved.

Because they have lost on the scientific front, GE has mounted a massive propaganda campaign.

But one of the messages I want to get across tonight is that people on the Hudson valley aren't buying the propaganda. They are being subjected to a sophisticated advertising campaign, but it really isn't working.

Last fall, we wanted to gauge public opinion about the need for the clean-up, and so we contracted with the Marist Institute for Public Opinion to conduct a poll for us to look at public attitudes.

What we found was that 84 percent

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of the people in the Hudson Valley support the clean-up. In New York City, it is 92 percent who support the clean-up.

Interestingly enough, when we went up river, we found that 55 percent of the people, Albany and north, support this clean-up and the dredge removal of PCBs from the Hudson River.

So finally, we would like to submit the results of this poll to the EPA for the record. Thank you.

(Handing document.)

MR. CASPE: The next speaker is Lori Enella.

MS. ENELLA: I'm Lori Enella. I represent NYPIRG Nassau Community College. I'm going to keep it very short and sweet.

We allow corporations to get away with too much. First GE got away with polluting the Hudson, now they don't want to fund the clean-up, allowing them to get away with poisoning us

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Our health is precious; our life is precious; the safety of our children is precious. And we cannot let GE get away with our future.

MR. CASPE: The next speaker is Peter Moran also of NYPIRG.

MR. MORAN: My students. My name is Peter Moran and I'm a project coordinator for the New York Public Research Group in NYPIRG based on community colleges. I'm a campus-based organizer.

The first thing I would like to do is commend the EPA for the clean-up plan they have put forth. The second thing I would like to do is tell the audience I promise I'm the only person that will speak under this NYPIRG hat tonight.

After listening to the comments tonight and thinking about the issue, the one thing that comes to me is how astounding it is that after 30 years, we still have to have public comment and discussion about an issue that is so

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clear.

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It is so painfully obvious that GE has lied. And GE must pay. The PCBs are everywhere; they're in the fish. They're in the wildlife. We learned tonight at the rally that Andy Mealy from Clearwater has levels in his body, a human body, that would make him unfit for consumption, a human being.

This is not just north of Troy. This is all the way down the river. And they have lied and they must pay. This should not be about politics. It is about life and death. And GE has lied about life and death and should pay.

In the risk assessment, the question I have is how many people need to get cancer directly attributed to PCBs before we say and realize that GE has lied and GE must pay. Thank you.

MR. CASPE: The next speaker is Karen Farrell. The next speaker is Lori Schuster.

MS. SCHUSTER: I'm actually really

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2 aren't good. Look at the local
3 community, look at the science, and do
4 the right thing. But don't let
5 photo-ops, people who are out of
6 context, facts-out-of-context,
7 downstate, whatever the crap is, don't
8 let that affect the decision.

9 Do the right thing. Do the right
10 thing for the river, for everyone
11 involved. Thank you.

12 MR. CASPE: The next speaker is
13 Alan Ross.

14 MR. ROSS: Hi, everybody. Thanks
15 for having me. It is kind of weird
16 being here. I go to the University of
17 Colorado and I came up to New York to
18 study for a while. And one of my
19 assignments -- I'm a political science
20 major. One of the things I started
21 doing was, my assignment was to study
22 this whole Hudson River thing and see
23 who is saying what and who is doing
24 what.

25 I don't know. It is funny because

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Let's use them.

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Thirdly, GE dumped it in, they should pay for the clean-up cost as needed to make sure it is totally gotten rid of in an environmentally safe way which will not allow the waste to go where it shouldn't go.

I've written environmental assessments where I know you can get rid of stuff safely. We have proven it. We have seen it.

Fourthly, I worked at one or two environmental firms in the past 27 years. I've been in hospitals as a platelet donor and visiting people off campus.

Any of you who think that cancer and other long-term diseases are not debilitating, I guarantee you, go talk to people. And you know someone. They may hide it, but I guarantee you know someone who has cancer or you know someone who will have cancer or some other debilitating disease. Put

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yourself in their shoes. Thank you.

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MR. CASPE: Thank you. Kathleen
McCurty?

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Jackie S. Morgan?

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Serena DeJesus?

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Mitchell Cohen from the No-Spray
Coalition in Brooklyn Greens?

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MR. COHEN: Hi, my name is
Mitchell Cohen from the No-Spray
Coalition which has been fighting
against the insane spraying of our city
and also up and down the Hudson with
toxic pesticides, and also from the
Brooklyn Greens of the Green party of
New York.

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Of course I want and all the
Greens and everybody want the Hudson
clean. And of course we deplore what
General Electric has done to it and want
to see it cleaned up.

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I do have concerns, however, based
on our experiences with the EPA and many
issues, including the No-Spray Coalition
which they supervise the spraying of New

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cart it, put the waste by those who made

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it, bring it to Rockefeller Center by

4

the truckload, bring it up to the 57th

5

floor of that building in Rockefeller

6

Center, and let them deal with it

7

there. Or to Jack Welsh's (phonetic)

8

mansion and dump it on his front lawn.

9

But the people who did it, the GE,
need to pay its price.

10

11

MR. CASPE: I have to cut you off
on at this stage.

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MR. COHEN: That's it. I'm done
anyway.

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MR. CASPE: I would clarify on the
one point of where the material will
actually go. I mentioned what we had
used for pricing the material out. It
is a feasibility study.

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Within the design, you're right,
within the design there will be a lot
more detail as far as exactly where it
will go. One of the things we are
looking at is recycling as well.

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MR. COHEN: That's great. I think

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worked with Aroclors over the mid-'60s

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without risk, without a face mask,

4

without any necessary protection.

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There are first class chemical

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companies in this country and fourth

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class. Very little in between.

8

Certainly in those days.

9

I think the bottom line is do no

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harm. And I don't think enough

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attention has been paid to the concerns

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of the people upstate, mostly sitting

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here.

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I think the exploitation of

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children like that is absolutely called

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brainwashing in other countries, and I

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think the people who cheer that are

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emotionally carried away and not really

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ready to address some of the unexpected

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scientific questions that really have

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very few answers at this point.

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I learned earlier outside that in

23

Pittsfield, GE settled with the

24

Housatonic group for \$750 million. It

25

comes to my mind that why would they

1
2 fired when they work
3 for nonprofit organizations.

4 And finally, the attention will be
5 to go to the cold spots. Are we talking
6 about a clause of zero parts per
7 million, billion, trillion? Let's have
8 some common sense.

9 MR. CASPE: If you have some
10 further comments, obviously you can
11 submit it to us.

12 MR. HISENBACK: I appreciate
13 getting that 29-page report. Thank you
14 very much.

15 MR. CASPE: IS Gene Schoenfeld
16 here? Are you Gene Schoenfeld? No.
17 Jennifer Jenkins?

18 MR. MONFONGER: Jennifer left.
19 She told me I could speak for her. I
20 got a couple of questions, Mike Monfonger,
21 fire extinguisher from the Bronx. I'm
22 not here representing the Fire
23 Department. I've also worked Harlem.

24 I agree with what the fellow back
25 there said, the guy from Harlem. You

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environmental biology biophysics. I'm

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on the Heart Rest program in a number of

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communities in New York City. I come as

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a director for the GIO Institute.

6

I will be the first to criticize

7

the EPA for their mistakes, as my

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colleagues in EPA will tell you.

9

This is not a mistake. This is

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courageous, specifically based aim, and

11

I must appreciate that altogether.

12

The river is dynamic. We can

13

expect sediments to be mobilized every

14

ten to 100 years thereabout in the

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Hudson with increasing flow -- from

16

increasing precipitation, global warming

17

may expect that to be ten times more

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quickly. The sediments are not going to

19

be stable forever.

20

The truth is, nothing has been

21

done about the PCBs so far. GE has done

22

more work on the physical chemistry of

23

surfaces than any other agency on the

24

planet.

25

They haven't used any of their

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MR. CASPE: I'm going to call out
some names. Shout if you're here.

3

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Margaret Hayes Young?

5

MS. YOUNG: Yes. Hi.

6

7

MR. CASPE: New York City Sierra
Club?

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MS. YOUNG: Yes, a lot of us are
in one way or another. I'm also part of
the Atlantic Chapter, Sierra Club.
Executive Committee now.

10

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A lot of things have been said. I
will tell you, I submitted some comments
on behalf of our group.

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Very quick salient points are:
We, the Sierra Club, want the PCBs out of
the river.

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It is our position that full
removal of all PCBs in the areas
identified should take place. We
strongly support alternative five: full
removal as proposed by the EPA.

23

24

25

Oh, and we really also greatly
appreciate, really we do, the work that
the EPA has done, including our members

1

2

which is a member of the Clearwater

3

Coalition which is fighting to protect

4

the watersheds of the City of New York.

5

That's another whole issue with upstate.

6

I have many friends up there and

7

we work together. Many of the issues

8

concerning us now, the people in those

9

areas are more concerned with protecting

10

the way of life that they have up there

11

and not being overwhelmed by

12

corporations and by large box stores,

13

and so forth, that destroy the quality

14

of life upstate. I have many friends

15

and care deeply about that area.

16

I lived on the Hudson in one way

17

or another with Bard College for 50

18

years, and I had friends on the Hudson

19

at Saugerties with property right on the

20

Hudson. I used to go and do it. I used

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to kayak with my wife. I cared very

22

deeply about that.

23

But I would like to mention

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something in terms of the reputation of

25

General Electric and an issue we have

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have a mature plan now. It still wasn't

3

ready for an environmental impact

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statement.

5

They threatened the community they

6

were going to take out jobs. They

7

threatened every which way to try to

8

twist this into a shape.

9

I close by quoting or paraphrasing

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a statement by Roosevelt, Teddy

11

Roosevelt who said, The public interest

12

is more important than the private

13

interest. Thank you.

14

MR. CASPE: Glenn Moorhead.

15

MR. MOORHEAD: Thanks for having

16

me. I'm not one of them and I'm not one

17

of them. I'm a trained mediator and I'm

18

fessing by all this.

19

I wanted to start out by saying,

20

there's got to be some precedence like this

21

throughout the country in this case.

22

I'm from the Detroit, Michigan

23

area and we had a lot of Brownfields

24

come about from all the factories that

25

left our city.

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Faia? Tara Elliot? Victoria Beerman?

3

Talbot Katz.

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MR. KATZ: Hi, I'm Talbot Katz

5

from the New York City Friends of

6

Clearwater.

7

I would like to say that I support

8

the EPA's decision to clean up the

9

Hudson River. I do sympathize with

10

people whose lives will be disrupted on

11

this account. That's always an

12

unfortunate thing.

13

Part of the thing is to realize

14

who the culprit is in this case.

15

Unfortunately, we have been hearing

16

their name all night long. It is

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General Electric.

18

And those of you who live in the

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area whose lives will be affected, maybe

20

you should find out just how good a

21

friend of yours General Electric really

22

is. Because they owe you as well. You

23

have what you call, an environmental

24

organization called CEASE.

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Why don't you direct that

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community members have documented the ongoing carcinogenic effects and negative immune system effects of PCBs through fish consumption and even breathing for decades.

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A secondary important benefit of the dredging would be economic, restore the \$40-million fishery.

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One caveat, the disposal of the dredge waste, if there is no sustainable alternative to landfilling, it must not be cited where it can impact people or wildlife.

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The bigger picture, the situation is probably just a tip of the iceberg. One of the most sobering statistics I'm aware of is that there are about 75,000 industrial chemicals in the environment today, with 1,000 new ones being invented every year. Yet, only three percent are tested for carcinogens in the city.

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Thank you.

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MR. CASPE: Thank you all for your

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even did work for the EPA.

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I think folks are pretty impressed with your courage.

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I also want to talk to you as somebody who -- I live in Brooklyn now but I was born in New York City. But when I was a kid, my parents moved to Dobbs Ferry. And I can remember when I was a kid, I mean like six, we would go down to the river.

You know, the first letter I ever wrote to the Sierra Club is about this. We believed that if any of the water from the river got on us, we would die because it was poison.

And I guess I better admit that's more than 30 years ago. I've lived all this time, all this time waiting.

And for those people who dare to say that these kids were children who were brought here by their teachers to speak out -- you know, when I was five, I would have come if anybody would have given me a chance. But nobody talked to