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## **EPA RELEASES TWO NEW REASSESSMENT DOCUMENTS AND ANNOUNCES DETAILED SCHEDULE OF REMAINING WORK FOR THE HUDSON RIVER REASSESSMENT DECEMBER 2000 DATE FIRM FOR PROPOSED PLAN**

**FOR RELEASE: TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 1999**

(99104) New York, N.Y.-----The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today announced two new documents in its continuing work on the Hudson River PCBs Reassessment.

- The Responsiveness Summary for the Phase 2 Feasibility Study Scope of Work, which contains EPA's responses to significant public comments received on this document.
- The Peer Review Report on two EPA studies released in February 1997 and July 1998 respectively: the Data Evaluation and Interpretation Report and the Low Resolution Sediment Coring Report. This report contains the comments and results of the scientific peer review of this segment of EPA's Reassessment work. Both of these documents are available for public review at the information repositories listed on our web site at

In addition, the Agency also released a more detailed schedule for the Hudson River Reassessment project, which includes the time frames for the upcoming release of EPA responsiveness summaries and for peer review. There are two remaining peer reviews that will address EPA's recently released Baseline Modeling Report, and another for the Human Health Risk Assessment and Ecological Risk Assessment. The agency still plans to release the Proposed Plan for cleaning up PCBs in the Hudson in December 2000.

The amplified schedule illustrates, in chronological sequence, the work that is yet to be completed. The realignment of the peer review sessions, which now follow the responsiveness summaries, gives the peer reviewers more complete information on the science under review by providing the reviewers with both the original Agency approach subject under review, and any modifications to that approach based on public comments. The modified process allows the peer reviewers to review the Agency's final technical proposal opposed to one which could be modified later based on public comments. In addition, reviewers are exposed to the views of the public, and they can see how EPA modified its approach to address those public comments. The last peer review panel confirmed the effectiveness of this modified approach, as they believed that the responsiveness summary, in tandem with the original reports, facilitated their understanding of the science under review and enabled them to see how EPA responded to technical comments on its original approach. The panel also recommended that responsiveness summaries be provided to future peer review sessions.

To date, EPA has held two peer reviews, the last of which took place in March 1999, where the reviewers gave their recommendations on the science contained in EPA's Phase 2 Evaluation and Interpretation Report and Low Resolution Sediment Coring Report. The review panel unanimously agreed that EPA's conclusions presented in both those reports were supported by the data.

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**Hudson River PCBs Site  
Reassessment RI/FS  
June 10, 1999**

Milestone	Completed	T
PHASE 1 Report	Yes	A
PHASE 2 Field Sampling Program - 1992 to 1994	Yes	
Database Report (DBR)	Yes	N
Preliminary Model Calibration Report (PMCR)	Yes	O
Data Evaluation & Interpretation Report (DEIR)	Yes	F
Low Resolution Sediment Coring Report (LRC)	Yes	J
Human Health Risk Assessment Scope of Work	Yes	J
CD-ROM Database Reissue	Yes	J
Peer Review 1 - Modeling Approach - Begins	Yes	J
Peer Review 1 Meeting	Yes	Se
Ecological Risk Assessment Scope of Work	Yes	Se
DBR, PMCR, DEIR Responsiveness Summary	Yes	D
Peer Review 2 - DEIR & LRC - Begins	Yes	J
LRC Responsiveness Summary	Yes	F
Peer Review 2 Meeting	Yes	M
Human Health Risk Assmt SOW Responsiveness Summary	Yes	A
Ecological Risk Assmt SOW Responsiveness Summary	Yes	A
Baseline Modeling Report (BMR)	Yes	M
Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA)		A
Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA)		A
BMR Responsiveness Summary		J
Peer Review 3 - BMR - Begins		J
Peer Review 3 Meeting		M
HHRA and ERA Responsiveness Summaries		M
Peer Review 4 - HHRA & ERA - Begins		M
Peer Review 4 Meeting		M
PHASE 3 Feasibility Study Scope of Work (FS SOW)	Yes	Se
FS SOW Responsiveness Summary	Yes	J
FS Report		D

PROPOSED PLAN
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RECORD OF DECISION (including Responsiveness Summary)
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