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Subject: EPA TO REMOVE CONTAMINATED SOIL FROM RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES ON ROGERS ISLAND

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EPA TO REMOVE CONTAMINATED SOIL FROM RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES ON ROGERS ISLAND
TO ADDRESS CONCERNS ABOUT PCBs AND LEAD

FOR RELEASE: Thursday, October 7, 1999

(99160) New York, N.Y. - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today announced that it would begin removing PCB and lead-contaminated soils found on some residential properties on Rogers Island, which is located in the Hudson River in Fort Edward, New York, about 45 miles north of Albany. An assessment of the health risks posed by the contamination determined that there is an elevated level of risk for both cancer and other health effects of exposure to PCBs for people living in some residential properties on the island. Elevated levels of lead, which can seriously affect the development of young children, were identified at four residential properties.

"Given the known risks of exposure to PCBs and lead, we have decided to remove the contaminated soil from these Rogers Island properties," said EPA Regional Administrator Jeanne M. Fox. "The Superfund Program gives us the ability to take action when people and the environment are at risk."

EPA is expected to begin the soil removal work shortly and expects to complete the excavation and disposal of the contaminated soil during the 1999 construction season. The Agency plans to remove the PCB and lead-contaminated soils concurrently in order to minimize disruption to the affected residents.

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