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From: KAREN DELLY
To: Newsgroup,INTERNET:"EPA-R2-PRESS@UNIXMAIL.RTPNC.EP...
Date: 1/31/00 1:59pm
Subject: PR:"EPA RELEASES REVISED BASELINE MODELING REPORT FOR HUDSON.."

EPA RELEASES REVISED BASELINE MODELING REPORT FOR HUDSON RIVER PCBs REASSESSMENT PROJECT- REFINEMENTS PROVIDE FURTHER INSIGHT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency -- Region 2
New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands
290 Broadway - New York, New York 10007-1866
www.epa.gov/region2

Bonnie Bellow, 212-637-3660

FOR RELEASE: Monday, January 31, 2000

(#00021) New York, New York - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released the revised Baseline Modeling Report (BMR), which has been designed to predict future levels of PCBs in Upper Hudson River sediment, water and fish for the Hudson River PCBs Reassessment Project. This report reflects changes to the May 1999 Baseline Modeling Report based on public comments and additional analyses, and supercedes the May 1999 report. The PCB concentrations calculated by the models under a "baseline" scenario, in which no action is taken to clean up the river, are used to assess both human health and ecological risks.

The revised BMR is, for the most part, consistent with the findings of the earlier modeling report. Nevertheless, the refinements to the models provide EPA with additional insight into the factors that control transport and fate (how PCBs move and what their ultimate destination is) and bioaccumulation (the buildup of PCBs in the food chain) in the Upper Hudson. One of the refinements in the revised BMR is that the forecast period was lengthened from twenty-one to seventy years, from 1998 through 2067. This revision allows EPA to use modeling results directly in certain risk calculations, whereas previously, EPA used extrapolated forecasts of PCB levels for risk calculations beyond twenty-one years.
Findings from the revised BMR include:

- PCB concentrations in the surface sediments will continue to decline for approximately the next two to three decades. During that time, the PCBs in the sediment will control PCB levels found in the water column, surface sediments and fish.
- After that time, if PCB loads from upstream of Fort Edward (originating from the General Electric plant sites) are allowed to continue at current levels, they will begin to control the PCB levels found in the water, sediments and fish. Eventually, the decline in PCB levels will slow substantially and approach a level reflecting the upstream load. At that level, concentrations of PCBs in fish will still be at unacceptable levels. General Electric has entered into several consent orders with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to address the PCB load entering the river from its upriver sites.
- Small amounts of annual erosion could expose PCBs that were previously buried in certain areas of the river.

Predictions of when fish will reach "safe" PCB levels are not covered in the revised BMR, as the selection of acceptable levels will be determined in the Feasibility Study to be released in December 2000. Once again, the models simulate baseline conditions, assuming that no cleanup has been done of the contaminated sediments of the upper Hudson River.

The Baseline Modeling Report is currently undergoing review by a panel of independent scientific experts who will give EPA their recommendations in March of this year. Copies of the revised Baseline Modeling Report can be found at any of the information repositories in the Hudson Valley, which EPA has established for this site. You can find a list of their locations at our web site at **www.epa.gov/hudson.**

From: KAREN DELLY
To: Newsgroup,INTERNET:"EPA-R2-PRESS@UNIXMAIL.RTPNC.EP...
Date: 1/11/00 9:57am
Subject: **PR:"PANEL FOR THIRD ROUND OF PEER REVIEW FOR HUDSON RIVER.."**

PANEL FOR THIRD ROUND OF PEER REVIEW FOR HUDSON RIVER PCBs ANNOUNCED BY EPA

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency -- Region 2
New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands
290 Broadway - New York, New York 10007-1866
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Ann Rychlenski, 212-637-3672

FOR RELEASE: Tuesday, January 11, 2000

(#00011) New York, New York -- An independent group of experts charged with reviewing the scientific work contained in EPA's Phase 2 Baseline Modeling Report, which is part of the agency's Hudson River PCBs Reassessment project, will meet Wednesday and Thursday, January 12 and 13, 2000, to hear presentations given by EPA on its computer modeling work. The Phase 2 Baseline Modeling Report contains findings on the future levels of PCBs expected in Hudson River sediment, water and fish. The panel members are also scheduled to go on a tour of the upper Hudson River to become familiar with the areas under study.

The meeting will begin with an opening presentation at 9:00a.m. on January 12, 2000, at the Holiday Inn Turf, located at 250 Wolf Road, Albany, New York. At 11:00a.m., the panel will be taken on a site tour for the balance of the afternoon. On Thursday, January 13, 2000, from 8:30a.m. to 4:30p.m., the presentations will continue and the reviewers will receive their charge. This is the third group of experts empaneled to review the science that is the basis of the Hudson River PCBs Reassessment. They are expected to give EPA their recommendations in March of this year. The fourth and last group will review EPA's Human Health Risk Assessments and Ecological Risk Assessments later this year.

The members of the panel are:

Ellen Bentzen, Ph.D., Research Scientist, Department of Environmental and Resource Studies, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada

Alan Elzerman, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Environmental Engineering and Science, and Director, School of the Environment, Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina

Per Larsson, Ph.D., Director of Limnology and MarineEcology, Department of Ecology, University of Lund, Lund, Sweden

Grace Luk, Ph.D., Professor, Civil Engineering, Ryerson Polytechnic University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Wu-Seng "Winston" Lung, Ph.D., P.E., Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia

Robert Nairn, Ph.D., P.E., Principal, Baird & Associates, Oakville, Ontario, Canada

Ross Norstrom, Ph.D., Head, Research, Wildlife Toxicology Division, National Wildlife Centre, Environment Canada, Hill, Quebec; Adjunct Professor, Department of Chemistry, Carleton University and Ottawa-Carleton Chemistry Institute, Ottawa, Ontario, Conjunct Professor, Watershed Ecosystems Graduate Program, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada