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cc:

Subject: summary of CEASE and FAIR Meeting for admin. record

This is to provide a summary of a meeting held at EPA headquarters on May 14, 2001 related to the proposed plan for the Hudson River site. I understand you would like summaries of such meetings to include with your administrative record of this matter.

The meeting was held at the request of representatives of CEASE and FAIR. Attendees were: Phyllis Anderson, EPA/OERR; John Spinella, EPA/OECA; Barry Breen, EPA/OECA; John Valeri, EPA/OGC; Earl Salo, EPA/OGC; Bill Peck and Dean Sommer, both of Young, Sommer LLC; and Robert Katin, Proskauer Rose LLP. The non-EPA attendees were representing CEASE (Citizen Environmentalists Against Sludge Encapsulation) and FAIR (Farmers Against Irrational Remedies).

They expressed concern over being able to comment on the proposed plan when they felt insufficient information was available from which to form an opinion. In particular, the proposed plan did not describe where the dewatering facilities would be; they could not tell what risks the remedy itself would create; and cost benefit analyses would need to consider the loss of use of the river. Generally, they questioned a process where public input was sought before the agency would be addressing these and other issues. We thanked them for coming and reiterated that public comments would be considered before any action is taken.

They handed us CEASE's comments that they said had already been submitted for the record; and a draft document that might be the basis for a court filing against EPA.

CEASE POINTS

1. Washington County CEASE, Inc. was organized in 1981 by some local residents. It is a not for profit citizens environmental organization headquartered in Ft. Edward, New York. It is a completely volunteer organization and has no paid staff.
2. CEASE's single purpose is to make sure that the need to protect the quality of human life and the environment in the upper Hudson River area does not get lost in a narrowly focused effort to remove PCB containing mud from the bottom of the River using heavy construction methods.
3. CEASE's primary concerns with the present EPA proposal are:
 - Two 30 acre hazardous waste storage and treatment sites needed - no locations identified; no environmental impacts analyzed.
 - Huge local transportation infrastructure (waterbased, highway and rail) is required - no locations identified; no environmental impacts analyzed.
 - One or more surface mines required for backfill gravel, sand and topsoil - no locations identified; no environmental impacts analyzed.
 - A large number of fossil fueled pieces of heavy equipment required for long periods of time - no quantification of energy use or ambient air quality effects.
 - Hundreds of acres of river bed and banks, including wetlands, over a 40 mile stretch to be removed - no valid water quality or environmental impact analyses provided.
 - Introduction of a sprawling, new heavy construction and industrial project in a rural, tourist-based economy - no socio-economic analysis performed.
3. Procedurally, CEASE notes that the Feasibility Study — despite its apparent large size — didn't contain specific information about the environmental, human health and socio-economic impacts of the proposed remedial action. That makes it impossible for the (a) affected communities to make meaningful comments and participate in the process and (b) EPA decisionmakers to determine whether human health and the environment are improved or impaired by the proposed remedial action. That is why this case is not ready for decision and why the specifics of the proposed remedial action need to be developed and evaluated with real community participation and disclosure to the public, followed by an opportunity for comment.

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