



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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SEP 19 2001

OFFICE OF THE
ADMINISTRATOR

TO: Hudson River ROD Docket

FROM: Eileen McGinnis

Re: Hudson River

Following are the list of meetings I participated in with regards to Hudson River:

1. May 16, 2001, I met with Congressman Sweeney. Other participants included: Administrator Whitman, Ed Krenik and Marty Torrey.

Congressman Sweeney recognized that the Administrator has a difficult decision to make. He talked about the constituents in his district and their fears about dredging and its impact on the community and the river, specifically noise, traffic, odor and loss of recreational opportunities, as well as decreased value of homes. Congressman Sweeney talked about the communities in upstate New York and their distrust of EPA, and expressed his strong belief that EPA's public outreach has been disastrous.

2. June 6, 2001, I met with New York State Commissioner Cathy Crotty. Other participants included Administrator Whitman and Ed Krenik.

Commissioner Crotty stated that the Pataki Administration supported "active remediation," not specifically EPA's remedy. Commissioner Crotty also said that she thought EPA could do a better job with community outreach.

3. July 19, 2001, I met with Marty Torrey, Chief of Staff to Congressman Sweeney and members from the group CEASE.

The following points were made:

- In 1984, EPA decided against dredging, and scientific evidence did not support it in 2001.
- Everyone expressed frustration with Region II and thought the Region's concept of public participation was inadequate. They said they were only allowed two minutes at the microphone and received no feedback on any of their comments.
- They displayed photographs showing how narrow the Hudson River is in some places, and they expressed fear that this "beautiful" river would be destroyed.

- They expressed their belief that "things are getting better" and that the river was cleansing itself, and that dredging the river would make things worse.

4. July 25, 2001, Administrator Whitman, Jessica Furey, Ed Krenik and myself met with a number of environmentalist (see attached list) who made the following points:

- It was time to move from the study phase to the action phase. They stated their belief that Region II has done a good job in developing their proposal.
- Environmental Justice was an issue, since many of the people living in the communities along the river subsist on the fish they caught in the river.
- A pilot program would only lead to more delay.
- It was important to commit to dredging the entire 2.65 million cubic yards as contained in the initial proposal.

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