

From: John Szeligowski
To: Bruce Fidler; Ed Garvey; Tariq Ahmed
Date: 4/12/01 11:11AM
Subject: Odor

I spoke to Dr. G-Yull Rhee today concerning the potential for noticeable odor levels during dredging operations. Dr. Rhee has not conducted any studies of sediment related odor. He is addressing complaints from various areas around the state concerning odors in drinking water.

However, based on his experience on the Hudson River over the years he felt that other than musty odors that not much else will be observed from dredging operations. The exception in his mind was that where visible levels of PCB exist (oily sheen) there will be a PCB related odor.

Our mutual experience with regard to pure PCB is much the same. PCB oils are largely colorless (my impression was that they exhibit a slight yellow tint but Dr. Rhee insisted that pure PCB is colorless). Also pure PCB does not have an odor; therefore, the source of odor in highly contaminated sediments is somewhat uncertain. I expressed the view that PCBs in capacitors may have been blended with other agents for thickening but Dr. Rhee did not seem to think so).

Finally, Dr. Rhee mentioned that he has two papers coming out soon on PCB degradation in the environmental. One paper addresses microbial breakdown of PCBs and is consistent, he stated, with the information contained in various Hudson River reports (his study compares conditions in the Hudson to those in the St. Lawrence). His second paper addresses PCBs encapsulated at Moreau (apparently little degradation has occurred in this landfill). He mentioned that Moreau PCB levels were lower than he had expected (this may be due to mixing during placement).

John Szeligowski