



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION II

JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10278

JUN 16 1992

John H. Claussen, Esq.
Corporate Environmental Programs
General Electric Company
3135 Easton Turnpike
Fairfield, Connecticut 06431

Re: Joint Liaison Group Meeting

Dear Mr. Claussen:

This is in response to your letter of May 29, 1992 to Douglas Blazey, Regional Counsel, regarding the open joint liaison group meeting to be held on June 18, 1992 to discuss the Phase 2 Work Plan.

Your letter correctly points out that the Reassessment is primarily about remediation of the PCB-contaminated sediments in the Upper Hudson. However, the Hudson River PCBs site includes approximately 200 river miles, from Hudson Falls to the Battery in New York City.

Because the project addresses such a large area, the decision on where to hold meetings will always be subject to criticism by some portion of the public. EPA has held meetings at locations both upriver and downriver, and plans to continue to do so. For your information, there are approximately 200 members of the liaison groups and, while the majority of the participants are from upriver areas, EPA has recently received numerous inquiries from downriver citizens wishing to join the liaison groups. EPA chose the Hudson, New York location to make the joint liaison group meeting equally available to both these potentially new participants as well as to members from the Fort Edward area.

I would once again like to reassure you that the EPA has no bias in this, or any other, aspect of the Reassessment process. We believe the location of the meeting is appropriate based on the upper and lower river concerns and is accessible to all interested parties; it was not chosen for the convenience of unaffected parties nor was it selected to stir up controversy in the lower River.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at
(212) 264-7508.

Sincerely yours,

Douglas J. Tomchuk

Douglas J. Tomchuk, Project Manager
Eastern New York/Caribbean Section II

cc: Liaison Group Chairs and Co-Chairs
Bill Ports, NYSDEC