



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION II

JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10278-0012

June 10, 1993

Dear Liaison Group Member:

Attached, please find a letter from some of the Liaison Group officers as well as a copy of some notes taken by Sharon Ruggi at the last meeting of the Scientific & Technical Committee (STC), which I have been asked to send out to the membership.

As soon as they are transcribed, copies of the minutes of the May 27th STC meeting will be sent to the Chairs and Co-Chairs of the Liaison Groups, as well as to the information repositories, of which there are sixteen (16) for this site. Although a meeting of the Steering Committee has not yet been scheduled, we should be meeting soon, and when a firm date and location is set you will be notified. If you have any questions or require more information please do not hesitate to contact me at 212/264-7214. Thank you for your continued participation and interest in EPA's Community Interaction Program for the Hudson River PCBs Reassessment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ann Rychlenski".

Ann Rychlenski, Community Relations Coordinator
External Programs Division

attachments (2)

June 6, 1993

Dear Liaison Group Members;

On May 17 the Science & Technical Committee held a meeting regarding the newly identified PCB source in the Bakers Falls area of Hudson Falls. Sharon Ruggi of the Environmental Liaison Committee attended the meeting.

As the newspaper articles published since this meeting are unclear as to the topic and importance of the meeting to the Reassessment, Sharon has written up her notes and you find them attached.

We will be attending a Steering Committee Meeting in the near future would like your input about this matter. Please let us know how you feel about this new information and how it should impact on the Reassessment. Give us a call, write us a note and we'll pass it along at the Steering Committee Meeting.

Thank you.

Tom Borden, Chair-Agricultural Liaison Committee
Carl Deppe, Co-Chair-Environmental Liaison Committee
Judy Schmidt-Dean, Chair-Citizens Liaison Committee
Darryl Decker, Chair-Governmental Liaison Committee

EPA held a meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee on May 17, 1993 in Albany, NY. The purpose of the meeting was to provide to that Committee information regarding the newly identified PCB source in the Bakers Falls area of Hudson Falls.

Presentations were given for GE by John Haqqard, G.E. employee, and by Dr. James Rhea of O'Brien & Gere, an engineering firm. Dr. Rhea explained the testing that has recently been done in the Bakers Falls area and emphasized that the increase in PCB concentration is not attributable to the now remediated remnant deposits but rather to a source north of the remnant deposits. Testing has lead them to the site of an abandoned mill known as the Allen Mill. John Haqqard described the problems that have been encountered trying to gain access to the area due to the rapidly moving water and showed photographs of the interior of the mill along with photographs of the surrounding area. He also explained that action has been taken to close a gate structure, to inspect the structure's raceways, to sample sediments in the area, to inspect the river bottom, and to inventory pipes and potential migration conduits. Mr. Haqqard then told the Committee that the next step will be collection and treatment of seepage in the eastern raceway and removal of the sediments in the eastern raceway. Weekly and biweekly sampling will be done to see if the initial action is abating the problem. According to Mr. Haqqard, the implications of the newly identified source are that "old" sediments are supplying ever decreasing amounts of degraded PCBs to the system while the Baker's Falls source is recontaminating the surface sediments with bioavailable, non-degraded PCBs and that the Bakers Falls source is controlling PCB fish levels in the upper Hudson.

Kevin Ferrar and Bill Ports, NYS DEC, outlined the proposed action to remove the PCB-contaminated soil in the area of the Hudson Falls G.E. plant and how testing of that area will determine if there has been a pathway for these PCBs to seep into the river.

William McCabe, EPA, asked the Committee members for their opinion about the information presented to them from G.E. and DEC and how this information would impact the reassessment. It was the consensus of the Committee that this new information is extremely important and that it must become a part of the reassessment. While Dr. Bonner, Texas A&M, said that the scientist in him felt that the reassessment should stop for 2-3 years while the Bakers Falls site was investigated, remediated and then monitored for a time, the Committee in general felt that the reassessment could go forward but that this new information is critical and must become a part of the reassessment. It was the Committee's feeling that no final decision should be made until the new source had been remediated followed by monitoring to determine the success of the remediation.