



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION II

JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10278-0012

November 11, 1993

Dear Liaison Group Member:

Enclosed, please find one copy of a letter from Concerned Citizens for the Environment, Inc. (CCE), sent to EPA and dated October 25, 1993. CCE asked that their letter be shared with the Liaison Group membership as well as with the rest of the Hudson River PCBs Reassessment team (HROC, STC, Steering Committee). In addition, I am also enclosing a copy of the EPA response to this correspondence.

Should you have any questions or require more information please contact me at 212/264-7214. Thank you for your continued interest and participation in the Community Interaction Program for the Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site Reassessment.

Sincerely,

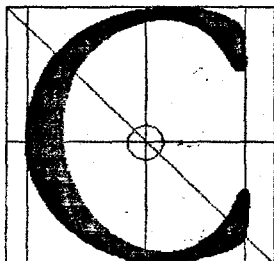
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ann Rychlenski", is written over the typed name.

Ann Rychlenski, Community Relations Coordinator  
External Programs Division

Enclosures (2)

Ann Rychlenski  
Community Relations Coordinator  
External Programs Division  
United States Environmental  
Protection Agency  
Region II  
Jacob J. Javits Federal Building  
New York, New York 10278-0012  
(212) 264-7214

October 25, 1993



Dear Ms. Rychlenski;

I am writing on behalf of Concerned Citizens for the Environment, Inc. (CCE) regarding the Hudson River PCB Reassessment effort.

As you know, CCE has participated in the reassessment proceedings as an active member of the Citizen Liaison Group since 1990.

CCE's main goal in the PCB reassessment, along with restoring the Hudson to its pristine nature, has been to see the lifting of the ban on fishing in the Upper Hudson. It is our belief that "catch and release" fishing, if allowed, would mark a positive step in the river's healing process. First, restoration of the recreational sport would serve to boost the sagging economies of river-based communities. Second, it would help lift the darkened veil that has shrouded the upper stretches of the river since fishing was banned by the Department of Health in 1977. Third, the large number of fishermen that would certainly flock to the virtually untapped fishery of the Upper Hudson could be educated and enlisted to help focus attention on the debate surrounding mitigatory measures being considered in this instant process. Fourth, opening the Upper Hudson to sport fishing could produce a valuable resource data base (which is woefully lacking now) regarding species, size, location, and general health of the Upper Hudson's aquatic life. Finally, revenues raised by, for instance, state-sponsored fishing tournaments or special license fees, could be used to help defray the staggering costs of restoring the Hudson to its former undefiled beauty, thereby expediting the river's rehabilitation.

CCE has not advocated unrestricted or unmonitored fishing of the Upper Hudson, and promote recreational sport fishing with the caveat that fishermen be fully informed of the dangers of consuming fish caught in the river North of the Troy dam.

Sadly, however, it has become strikingly apparent over the last several months that CCE's dreams and goals in this respect will never materialize under the present course.

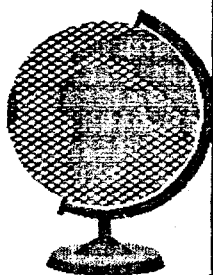
We find it reprehensible and revolting that a new "source" of PCB contamination has recently been

CCE, INC

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12154

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"discovered" at the Allen Mill in the Bakers Falls area of Hudson Falls. Our disgust is not generated by the fact that another source of pollution was found, but rather when it was found. Indeed, nearly ten years ago the EPA decided to take "no action" on remediation efforts in the Upper Hudson, content that potential sources of PCB contamination were all but nonexistent. Five years ago, the EPA and DEC began a collaborative process to reassess the EPA's "no action" determination. Now, when the procedure should be concluding, we find ourselves squarely back in the starting block, with new critical information to digest and evaluate.

In our view, the latest PCB reassessment process has been soiled from its inception. Indeed, between the attempted "loading" of Committees with GE employees, the defection of a Citizen Liaison Group member to EPA's consultant firm, and the placement of a former DEC Deputy Commissioner as GE's lead representative, this process makes the befouled bottom of the Upper Hudson seem sanitary. The new "discovery" of yet another source of PCB seepage appears to be just another tactic to stall the already painstakingly slow Hudson healing. If it is not a strategic maneuver, it speaks volumes on the incompetence and ineptitude of the EPA and the DEC, and must not go unanswered.

For the aforementioned reasons, and effective immediately, CCE is resigning as a member of the Citizen Liaison Group. We will be pursuing a more formal solution to this debacle. We encourage the remaining members of the reassessment team to discard the regulatory charade this process has become, and join us in a concerted effort to expedite the river's rebirth in this generation.

We respectfully request that this letter be copied to all committees and members of the PCB reassessment team. If that is not possible, please notify us immediately and provide us with a complete list of Committees and team members.

Sincerely,



Kenneth G. Dufty, President  
Concerned Citizens for the Environment, Inc.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION II

JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10278-0012

November 10, 1993

Kenneth G. Duffy, President  
Concerned Citizens for the Environment, Inc.  
RD 2 Box 124  
Schaghticoke, New York 12154

Dear Mr. Duffy:

I am writing in response to your letter of October 25, 1993, in which you tendered the resignation of your organization from the Citizen Liaison Group due to your dissatisfaction with the manner in which EPA is conducting its Reassessment of the Hudson River PCBs Superfund site, particularly in relation to the source at the G.E. Hudson Falls site.


There are several points with respect to this issue that need clarification. First, with respect to your concern over the "new" source, EPA chronicled an upstream source of PCBs in its Phase 1 Report which was issued in August 1991. The documentation of significant releases of PCBs in September 1991 and again in summer 1992 were the result of some event which changed conditions in the Allen Mills structure, and were "discovered" due to the monitoring that was being conducted in association with the capping of the remnant deposits.

Next, now that investigations at the G.E. Hudson Falls site are underway, EPA is coordinating with NYSDEC, and also GE, in order to assemble information regarding this source. However, the new inputs from the Hudson Falls source do not preclude EPA from conducting the Reassessment for the contaminated sediments.

Finally, the evaluation of the effects of the Hudson Falls source has not greatly delayed the Reassessment process, because most of the data analyses that will be necessary to do that were already planned in the Reassessment. For example, EPA had planned to characterize the interrelationship between PCBs in the water column, sediments and biota. From this characterization, EPA will be able to make its own determination of the effects of the Hudson Falls source compared to that of the PCBs which are present in the sediments.

We have structured the Community Interaction Program for this project to be one in which members of the public, regardless of their affiliation, could interact with EPA and each other over the course of the Reassessment. I am sorry if you did not find this program beneficial to your purposes. As you have requested, I am sending a copy of your letter to EPA to the members of the Liaison Groups and the Reassessment team. I will also share with them a copy of this response. Thank you for your participation in this project, and should you have any questions please contact me at 212/264-7214.

Sincerely,



Ann Rychlenski, Community Relations Coordinator  
External Programs Division