



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

DocID 80485

JAN 20 1998

Ms. Judith Schmidt-Dean
Chair, Citizens Liaison Group
1 Ferry Street
Schuylerville, New York 12871

Dear Ms. Schmidt-Dean:

This is in response to your letters of November 16, 1997 to EPA Administrator Carol Browner, EPA Region 2 Administrator Jeanne M. Fox, and myself, regarding the Hudson River PCBs site. Your letters express concerns regarding the landfill/treatment facility siting survey conducted by the Agency and the Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) awarded to Scenic Hudson. Your letters also express concern about the economic impacts of an EPA decision to dredge the Hudson River.

As you know through your participation as Chair of the Citizens Liaison Group and attendance at the proceeding held by Representative Solomon on October 3, 1997, and as we previously indicated to you in our November 26, 1997 letter, the performance of the siting survey should not be interpreted to mean that EPA has selected a dredging or landfilling remedy for the Site. We have not. The siting survey was intended simply to provide EPA with certain preliminary information that could assist in evaluating the remedial option of dredging and landfilling contaminated sediments. An evaluation of near-river landfilling, and other remedial options, including the "No Action" alternative, will be part of the Feasibility Study (Phase 3) of EPA's Reassessment. Further, the siting survey was in no way intended to be a definitive study of all possible disposal sites.

With respect to the TAG grant, you should be aware of the numerous occasions throughout the Reassessment in which EPA informed interested parties of the availability of the TAG grant. However, no party completed the application process until Scenic Hudson did so in 1995. Scenic Hudson met the requirements of receiving a TAG grant, and after the required public notification, the grant was awarded to them.

Finally, I would like to reiterate that "community acceptance" is one of the criteria that must be considered by EPA when the Agency ultimately makes a remedial decision for the Upper Hudson River sediments. EPA cannot sacrifice protection of human health and the environment in favor of community acceptance. However, public comments, including comments regarding potential economic consequences, will be considered prior to EPA's ultimate remedial decision.

EPA appreciates your participation in the Reassessment process, and I encourage you to continue to express your concerns at future Steering Committee and Hudson River PCB Oversight Committee meetings.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard L. Caspe', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Richard L. Caspe, Director
Emergency and Remedial Response Division