

Individual Questions Submitted by L.G. Members (Categorized as per agenda)

HIGH RESOLUTION CORING

Accuracy of Radioactive Dating Technique

What is the Committee's position on the accuracy of the radioactive dating technique being used to assign calendar dates to the sediment slices made from the samples taken from the River? Does the Committee view this accuracy as sufficient to use the radioactive dating method?

Comparison of Archived Cores

What information will be gained by taking new coring samples and then comparing the new samples with archived cores? What conclusions will result from doing this comparison?

Documentation of Sampling and Storage of Archived Cores

What documentation does this committee have concerning how these cores were obtained and how they have been stored over the years?

Use of Technique in a Riverine System

We have heard at recent meetings that the radionuclide dating technique has not been used in a dynamic river system such as the Hudson. Does this committee question whether or not the use of this technique will produce accurate information?

ADEQUACY OF DATA BASE

Will the combination of information previously obtained from Phase 1 and the data from Phase 2 be adequate to make an accurate judgement on remediation? If not, why not?

PCB Inventory

What is the Committee's position on the adequacy of the sediment samples being taken to represent the inventory of PCBs in the entire River system sediments?

New Fish Sampling

The approach by EPA is to use data from the past to predict future PCB concentrations in fish. It would seem that a good test of the prediction method would be to see how closely it predicts current PCB levels in fish, but there are no plans to get current PCB levels in fish. Why hasn't the Committee pushed for getting current fish samples for this purpose?

MODELLING EFFECTS OF REMEDIATION

Does remediation of the upper river alone make any real difference to lower river health risk?

Future Fish Concentrations

Extent Model has Been Specified to STC

To what extent have the specific algorithms and underlying assumptions to be used in using data from sediment samples to predict future PCB concentrations in fish been made available to the Committee and reviewed by the Committee?

What is the Committee's position on the adequacy of EPA's procedures for relating PCB sediment concentrations to water concentrations to fish concentrations?

Benefits of Dredging

IF the remedial alternative of dredging is decided upon following this current EPA study, what environmental benefits will the dredging accomplish?

Utilization of Thomann Report

The Thomann model, done in 1989, has been extremely accurate in predicting PCB concentrations in fish. Part of that report predicted a minimal positive effect of bank-to-bank dredging if done before 1992 but no effect if done after that. Given the success of the fish predictions, how much reliance is being placed upon that report by this Committee? Has the author of the Thomann report assisted the STC?