

APR 09 1992

James A. Sevinsky, Esq.
Assistant Attorney General
Environmental Protection Bureau
State of New York
Department of Law
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Mr. Sevinsky:

This is in response to your letter of March 13, 1992 in which you request that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) replace Dr. Daniel Abramowicz, an employee of General Electric, as the chair of the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) for the Hudson River PCBs site Reassessment RI/FS.

EPA believes that there were actions which could be taken to enable the STC to function more effectively; thus, EPA has taken steps to modify the structure of the committee. Please see the enclosed letter which notifies the members of the STC of the modifications. Our most recent action was to select Dr. William Nicholson of the Mount Sinai Medical Center to facilitate the committee. EPA believes that this will enhance the ability of the STC members to contribute to the Reassessment process and eliminate controversy or concern over leadership.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

/s/

Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

bcc: Ann Rychlenski, EPD
Paul Simon, ORC



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LAW
ALBANY, NY 12224

ROBERT ABRAMS
Attorney General

JAMES A. SEVINSKY
Assistant Attorney General in Charge
Environmental Protection Bureau

VAL E. WASHINGTON
Deputy Bureau Chief
Environmental Protection Bureau

**Tel. No. (518) 474-8096
(212) 341-2450**

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The Honorable Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff
Regional Administrator
US EPA Region II
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278

Dear Mr. Eristoff:

I am writing to request that Dr. Daniel A. Abramowicz be replaced as Chairperson of the Science and Technical Committee for the Hudson River PCB Reassessment RI/FS.

At the inaugural meeting of the Committee in April of last year, we expressed concern about the apparent conflict of interest created by an employee of General Electric serving as chair of a supposedly impartial committee dealing with the Hudson River PCB problem. As a result of such concerns by this office and others, a degree of balance was achieved with the election of Dr. Richard Bopp, of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, as co-chair. Now that Dr. Bopp has left State service, retaining Dr. Abramowicz as chair of this important committee may compromise the RI/FS process. The Scientific and Technical Committee needs a chairperson who is indisputably impartial, lest the conclusions and recommendations made by the committee appear tainted. While Dr. Abramowitz has been recognized as an accomplished scientist, his active participation in ongoing research conducted by GE and his close identification with and promotion of GE positions at GE press conferences and in GE literature precludes his service as chairperson of the committee.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,

JAMES A. SEVINSKY

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