

*Callahan*

220 Congress Street, #5A,  
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201.  
June 24, 1992.

Dear Mr. Sidamon-Eristoff,

I am writing to urge you to prevent an egregious conflict of interest from irreparably compromising the EPA's Hudson River Assessment. Your agency is studying the PCB contamination of the Hudson River by the General Electric Company, and yet an employee of the polluter chairs the Science and Technical Advisory Committee.

On the face of it, it is clear that a representative of G.E. will be committed to minimizing the necessity of a clean-up, and to pushing for the cheapest and least thorough clean-up should one be unavoidable. Already the company has suggested that just leaving the PCBs on the river bottom is the best way to clean them up.

And now it is touting the benefits of biodegradation, bacteria that a G.E.-funded studies claim partially break down PCB molecules. But a 1991 report by the School of Public Health at the State University of New York at Albany indicated that those "lighter" PCBs accumulate in the brain and cause neurological damage. And the February 1992 edition of Consumer Reports stated that over time, the composition of PCBs changes and they become in fact more toxic.

It has also been found that the E.P.A. has allowed clean-up plans at other sites to be influenced by the polluter. The Office of Technology Assessment reviewed E.P.A. Superfund decisions in 1988 and reported that the influence of polluters resulted in clean-ups being less stringent, or relying on unproven and speculative technologies.

Please do not permit General Electric to manipulate the assessment to meet their goal of doing as little as possible to clean up the PCBs. I request that you remove G.E.'s representative from the chair of the Science and Technical Advisory Committee.

Yours truly,

*Duncan Fowler*

Duncan Fowler.

copy : Clearwater PCB Campaign, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

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U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
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