

JUL 17 1992

Robert J. Kafin, Esq.  
Proskauer Rose Goetz & Mendelsohn  
1585 Broadway  
New York, New York 10036

Re: Hudson River PCBs Site - Scientific and Technical Committee

Dear Mr. Kafin:

This is in response to your letter of April 8, 1992, as well as your follow-up letters of May 19, 1992 and July 1, 1992, in which you inquire about Dr. William Nicholson's experience at facilitating groups of scientific and technical experts working on specific projects.

I would first like to state that the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) only makes recommendations to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and EPA remains the final decision maker in the Reassessment process. Therefore, the integration of scientific and technical information into legal and policy decisions will be done by EPA, and not by Dr. Nicholson or the STC membership.

For your information, Dr. Nicholson's has participated on the following committees which involved the interrelationship between science and public policy:

1979-1981 Office of Technology Assessment Advisory Panel on  
Assessment of Technologies for Determining Cancer in  
the Environment

1976-1979 N.Y. State Settlement Advisory Committee on PCBs

1980-1981 N.Y. State Advisory Committee on Asbestos in Schools

1980 N.J. Governor's Committee on Mercury

1983 Consumer Products Safety Commission - Chronic Hazard  
Advisory Panel on Asbestos (Vice-Chairman)

1985 World Health Organization Working Group on Criteria for  
Organic Carcinogenic Air Pollutants

- 1988            National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council  
                 Committee on Technologies for Preparing Beryllium Metal
- 1990-1991    Health Effects Institute/Asbestos Research Literature  
                 Review Panel
- 1992            Institute of Medicine Committee on the Health Effects  
                 of Mustard Gas and Lewisite
- 1992            Institute of Medicine Committee to Review the Health  
                 Effects in Vietnam Veterans of Exposure to Herbicides
- 1992            New Jersey State Commission on Cancer Research

Dr. Nicholson led discussions of particular subjects as the vice-chairman of the Consumer Products Safety Commission panel, and as the chairman of a sub-committee of the WHO working group and the Health Effects Institute panel. In addition, a copy of Dr. Nicholson's curriculum vitae is enclosed, which lists several purely scientific committees on which he has served.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Paul Simon, Assistant Regional Counsel, at (212) 264-4710.

Sincerely yours,

Kathleen C. Callahan, Director  
Emergency and Remedial Response Division

Enclosure

cc: Dr. William Nicholson

bcc: Paul Simon, ORC  
      Ann Rychlenski, EPD