

SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE

TRIBAL COUNCIL CHIEFS
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July 13, 1988

The Honorable Lee Thomas
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Thomas:

On behalf of the Mohawk People at Akwesasne, I want to thank you for the opportunity to meet with you on July 12, 1988.

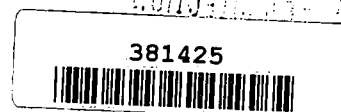
We Mohawks are not members of CERT. However, as members of our regional organization United South and Eastern Tribes, we have gone on record in support of EPA's Indian Policy. As well, we have promoted nationwide our sincere belief that we can, via a government-to-government cooperative agreement with EPA, turn the General government Motors/Akwesasne Superfund Site into a national success story. As such it was a pleasure to be asked to participate with the CERT leadership.

You will, no doubt, be hearing from CERT directly. However, I wanted to stress my appreciation for your commitments to support the establishment of a National Indian Environmental Protection Committee, to facilitate the early disbursement of EPA Grant Funds via interim regulations, to reaffirm to tribes the strength and vitality of EPA's technical assistance mechanisms and considering CERT's Internship proposal.

I was pleased to be able to provide you with a copy of our recently commissioned scientific analysis of the EPA's Remedial Investigation (RI) process at the GM/Akwesasne Superfund Site. We are the only people between this NPL site and the Canadian border, and the St. Lawrence River is the heart of our community. It is our hope that this report will serve as a catalyst to an effective remediation and improved Tribal Government role in decision-making at this NPL Site. We are pursuing this with your Region II personnel and will write you separately on this priority issue to keep you informed.



AKWESASNE "LAND WHERE THE PARTRIDGE DRUMS"



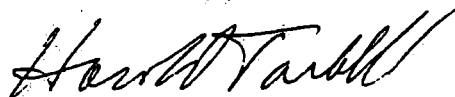
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In respect of the National focus of the meeting one issue I did not raise with you was our efforts to secure a single multinational remedial action plan for the St. Lawrence River in our area. The EPA, along with the governments of Canada, Quebec, Ontario and Akwesasne, have supported this concept as well as our proposed Mohawk role (attached). Only New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation remains opposed.

I believe a direct personal intervention by you in support of our position to the appropriate State officials would be decisive.

Once again, thank you for your attention, and I look forward to your response.

Respectfully,



Harold Tarbell
Tribal Chief

Enc.

HT/cmc

cc: Congressman Martin

Senator D'Amato

Senator Moynihan

CERT

EPA Region II Administrator

U.S. Firm

GMM 006 0599

February 29, 1988

Position Paper:

Mohawk Governments of Akwesasne

St. Lawrence River Remedial Action Plan

1. The Mohawk Governments of Akwesasne support the concept of an International Remedial Action Plan for the Cornwall/Massena Area of concern.
2. The Mohawk Governments of Akwesasne will participate directly in the preparation of the Remedial Action Plan. Personnel from the Councils will be mandated to fulfill this function to the State and Provincial governments.
3. The Mohawk Governments of Akwesasne will provide our expertise and information to the development of the St. Lawrence River Remedial Action Plan on a reciprocal basis with the governments involved with the plan.
4. The Mohawk Governments of Akwesasne propose, that the governments of Canada and the United States fund the activities of Mohawk Governments in support of our involvement in the development of the Remedial Action Plan.
5. The Mohawk Governments of Akwesasne will prepare for submission and approval as part of the St. Lawrence River Remedial Action Plan, a Mohawk philosophical perspective of the St. Lawrence River.
6. The Mohawk Governments of Akwesasne will participate in the Evaluation and Implementation phase of the Remedial Action Plan.

In the spirit of mutual respect and co-operation, the Mohawk Governments of Akwesasne submit this position paper as our commitment to the development of the St. Lawrence River Remedial Action Plan.

The Mohawk Governments of Akwesasne

Chief Mary David
Mohawk Council
Akwesasne

Chief Harold Tarbell
Mohawk Tribal Council
Akwesasne

Chief Jake Swamp
Mohawk Nation
Akwesasne

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