

**Hudson River Sloop Clearwater
Natural Resources Defense Council
Riverkeeper
Scenic Hudson**

October 8, 2010

Honorable Lisa P. Jackson
Administrator, USEPA
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

We are writing to urge the EPA to reject General Electric Company's (GE) recent request to delay yet again the generations-long struggle to restore the environmental and economic health of one of America's most loved rivers—the Hudson. We would very much like to arrange a meeting with you to discuss GE's latest bid for additional postponements in the opt-in process laid out in the 2006 Consent Decree. We strongly believe this is simply another effort by GE to disown full responsibility for its polluted legacy in the Hudson River Valley.

Just 18 months ago, hundreds of concerned citizens joined leaders of local, state and national environmental groups and officials from the Environmental Protection Agency to celebrate a major milestone, when GE seemingly accepted its obligation to clean up the ecological disaster it created by commencing work on one of the largest dredging projects ever undertaken—the removal of 2.65 million cubic yards of PCB-contaminated sediments from the Hudson. Now, by questioning the success of the completed Phase 1 and holding Phase 2 hostage to continued negotiation, it appears GE is positioning itself to evade its responsibility to complete the remediation.

For decades, GE fought against cleaning up the millions of pounds of PCBs it dumped into the river. Under a massive onslaught of media campaigns, legal challenges and lobbyists, New York's environmental community stood firm with the EPA. Working together with ordinary citizens and multiple local and state agencies, we insisted that GE be held accountable for threatening the health of generations of Hudson Valley residents, damaging native river species and turning one of our state's most valuable natural resources into the country's largest toxic waste site. Ultimately, EPA's historic 2002 Record of Decision directed the removal of substantially all of the PCBs from the most polluted segment of the river. And it is now up to EPA to ensure that GE completes the job.

Across the nation, EPA has a crucial role in ensuring companies clean up their current and historic toxic discharges. With recent events in the Gulf, people are more aware than ever that when natural resources are damaged, ordinary citizens suffer the most, both in health

and economic well-being. And nowhere is that truer than in the Hudson River – which makes GE’s completion of the long-delayed PCB cleanup both urgent and essential. We urge you to take all steps available to EPA to ensure that GE is legally bound to resume dredging in Spring 2011 and continue until the cleanup is done.

Thank you in advance for considering our meeting request. We look forward to sharing with you our concerns and hopes for the future of a healthier Hudson River.

Sincerely,



Frances Beinecke
President, Natural Resources Defense Council



Paul Gallay
Executive Director, Hudson Riverkeeper



Jeff Rumpf
Executive Director, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater



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President, Scenic Hudson

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