

ATTACHMENT 1



United States Environmental Protection Agency - Region 2

HUDSON RIVER FIELD OFFICE

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October 20, 2003

Mr. John Lawler, Supervisor
Town of Waterford / Town Hall
65 Broad Street
Waterford, NY 12188

Dear Supervisor Lawler:

This letter is in response to your email dated, September 17, 2003, in which you asked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to cover the cost of securing an alternate drinking water supply if elevated PCB resuspension levels occur as a result of the Hudson River Dredging project.

As you know, EPA does not expect remedial dredging to prevent any municipalities from using the Upper Hudson River as a source of drinking water, even temporarily. EPA's Engineering Performance Standard for Resuspension (which is currently being peer reviewed) would require remedial dredging to temporarily stop if the PCB resuspension standard of 500 parts per trillion (ppt) is exceeded during two consecutive days of dredging. While the dredging is stopped, the cause of the exceedence would be addressed. In addition, the resuspension standard calls for the notification of public water suppliers when PCB concentrations at a down river monitoring station exceed 350 ppt (70 percent of the 500 ppt resuspension standard). The resuspension standard would therefore protect public water supplies during dredging.

EPA also will ensure protection of the public water supplies through a Community Health and Safety Plan (CHASP) that will be developed during the remedial design. The CHASP will include monitoring requirements designed to protect public water supplies during dredging, and will also identify triggers for contingency plans that would be implemented if information or events indicate that dredging is creating a risk to the water supplies. Such contingency plans would include the use of alternate water supplies (such as Troy) under certain circumstances. We expect EPA or General Electric Company to cover the incremental costs incurred by public water suppliers for using an alternate water supply under the CHASP.

I hope this response answered your question. If I can help you with any further information, please feel free to contact me at (518) 747-4389.

Sincerely,

Leo Rosales
Public Affairs Specialist

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ATTACHMENT 2

EPA to help with drinking water

By Philip A. Vanno
The Record

WATERFORD — Supervisor John Lawler announced at Wednesday's Town Board meeting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will cover any expenses the town would incur in the event that the dredging of the Hudson River in 2006 forces it to find an alternate drinking water source.

Lawler has been hounding the EPA for the past two years in an effort to get the agency to pick up the cost of tapping into Troy's water system should PCBs seep into the Halfmoon River, which serves as the water supply for both Waterford and Halfmoon.

In his supervisor's report on Wednesday, Lawler said that he received a letter from the EPA, stating that either it, or General Electric, would in fact cover the 50 percent increase that Waterford residents would face should they have to utilize the Colar City's water supply.

Town residents currently pay \$2.43 per 1,000 gallons of water, but would have to fork over \$4.59 per 1,000 gallons if they had to get water from Troy.

"I am very pleased," Lawler said. "This is the right thing for them to do because this shouldn't be our problem."

"Our residents had nothing to do with the decision to dredge, and we shouldn't be responsible for paying any extra money should such an event occur."

In the letter from the EPA, Spokesman Leo Rosales assured Lawler that every precaution will be taken to avoid such a situation occurring, including numerous safeguards and monitoring systems.

"While it shouldn't happen, there is always the chance that it might, and I wanted to make sure that they understood where we coming from," Lawler said of the response.

In other business, the board unanimously approved the adoption of the \$6 million 2004 budget that was proposed at last month's meeting.

An amendment was made to allow for an extra \$1,000 to go to the police department for radio equipment before it was finalized.

Next year's budget will carry with it a tax rate increase of 1.95 percent.

Troy Record
11/6/03