Bcc: aaccardidey@louisberger.com[aaccardidey@louisberger.com]; aahmed@panynj.gov[aahmed@panynj.gov]; aayyaswami@gfnet.com[aayyaswami@gfnet.com]; Abhinhy Arcaya[aacharya@syr.edu]; acohen@hcdnnj.org[acohen@hcdnnj.org]; adam.ayers@corporate.ge.com[adam.ayers@corporate.ge.com]; adam.d.perelson@USACE.army.mil[adam.d.perelson@USACE.army.mil]; afair@anjec.org[afair@anjec.org]; akeramas@langan.com[akeramas@langan.com]; AKILDAY@ENVIRONMENTAL-EPI.COM[AKILDAY@ENVIRONMENTAL-EPI.COM]; Al Faroe[alfaroe2@gmail.com]; Alan Schindler[alanschindler@gmail.com]; Alice Yeh[Yeh.Alice@epa.gov]; Allison McCormick[amm@ztekenv.com]; AmeliaJ@lyndhurstnj.org[AmeliaJ@lyndhurstnj.org]; Ana Baptista[abaptista@rpa.org]; Ana Personal Baptista[anabaptista75@gmail.com]; andrew.willner@gmail.com[andrew.willner@gmail.com]; Andrew@iaco.us[Andrew@iaco.us]; ANEGRI@ENVIRONMENTAL-EPI.COM[ANEGRI@ENVIRONMENTAL-EPI.COM]; Anne Kruger[alkruger@cfl.rr.com]; Anne.Hayton@dep.state.nj.us[Anne.Hayton@dep.state.nj.us]; apengitore@pvsc.com[apengitore@pvsc.com]; arusso@pirnie.com[arusso@pirnie.com]; aryon@mbakercorp.com[aryon@mbakercorp.com]; aszymczak@dbnj.com[aszymczak@dbnj.com]; atimmis@dacollins.com[atimmis@dacollins.com]; b.m.lammers@boskalis.nl[b.m.lammers@boskalis.nl]; barrowse@battelle.org[barrowse@battelle.org]; Bastura.Tara[tbastura@sealandenviro.com]; bayshorerecycle@aol.com[bayshorerecycle@aol.com]; bcodell@mactec.com[bcodell@mactec.com]; ben.rich@mail.house.gov[ben.rich@mail.house.gov]; bentivca@shu.edu[bentivca@shu.edu]; bfreeman@rc.com[bfreeman@rc.com]; bgershan@eicassociates.com[bgershan@eicassociates.com]; bgershon@eicassociates.com[bgershon@eicassociates.com]; Bill Dawson[billdawson41@gmail.com]; bizokss1@aol.com[bizokss1@aol.com]; bmckenna@pvsc.com[bmckenna@pvsc.com]; bob.gibson@ge.com[bob.gibson@ge.com]; bolognap@mail.montclair.edu[bolognap@mail.montclair.edu]; Bonnie Bellow[Bellow.Bonnie@epa.gov]; bonpix@verizon.net[bonpix@verizon.net]; Brandt, Peter[Brandt.Peter@epa.gov]; Brian McLean[bmcLean@jaycashman.com]; brian.donohue@usdoj.gov[brian.donohue@usdoj.gov]; bruce.preston@pseg.com[bruce.preston@pseg.com]; bsewell@nrdc.org[bsewell@nrdc.org]; calbucher@gmail.com[calbucher@gmail.com]; carl.alderson@noaa.gov[carl.alderson@noaa.gov]; carolyne_bourassa@cascades.com[carolyne_bourassa@cascades.com]; cathy.elliott-shaw@dep.state.nj.us[cathy.elliott-shaw@dep.state.nj.us]; cecilia_mancini@urscorp.com[cecilia_mancini@urscorp.com]; chant@marine.rutgers.edu[chant@marine.rutgers.edu]; chayasara2@juno.com[chayasara2@juno.com]; chopson@panynj.gov[chopson@panynj.gov]; Chris Sebastian[Sebastian.Chris@epa.gov]; christine.hobble@njmeadowlands.gov[christine.hobble@njmeadowlands.gov]; Christopher.Rinaldi@siemens.com[Christopher.Rinaldi@siemens.com]; Chuck Tempus[ctempus@aol.com]; Cirro Malleo[ciro.malleo@pseg.com]; cjuri@starledger.com[cjuri@starledger.com]; Clay Stern[clay_stern@fws.gov]; Clifford.firstenberg@tierra-inc.com[Clifford.firstenberg@tierra-inc.com]; cpsgrossman@aol.com[cpsgrossman@aol.com]; craig.blett@pgenv.com[craig.blett@pgenv.com]; ctaub@steptoe.com[ctaub@steptoe.com]; D Sendros[dsendros@gmail.com]; Daben Suther[logos1555@gmail.com]; Daekyoo Hwang[dkh410@yahoo.com]; danny.oconnell@pgenv.com[danny.oconnell@pgenv.com]; darin.r.damiani@usace.army.mil[darin.r.damiani@usace.army.mil]; Daryck Brown[dhbrown@eossinc.com]; dave.risilia@dep.state.nj.us[dave.risilia@dep.state.nj.us]; davempf@gmail.com[davempf@gmail.com]; Davermxs@aol.com[Davermxs@aol.com]; david.bean@dep.state.nj.us[david.bean@dep.state.nj.us]; David.Doyle@dep.state.nj.us[David.Doyle@dep.state.nj.us]; dbastian@dawsonassociates.com[dbastian@dawsonassociates.com]; DBlye@EnvStd.com[DBlye@EnvStd.com]; dchapman@stratusconsulting.com[dchapman@stratusconsulting.com]; ddecaro@entrix.com[ddecaro@entrix.com]; debbie@nynjbaykeeper.org[debbie@nynjbaykeeper.org]; Delmar Karlen[Karlen.Delmar@epa.gov]; dennis@hudsonriver.org[dennis@hudsonriver.org]; dflynn@phillipslytle.com[dflynn@phillipslytle.com]; disabel@golub-isabel.com[disabel@golub-isabel.com]; dnavon@pirnie.com[dnavon@pirnie.com]; dnscotti.loureiro.com[dnscotti@loureiro.com]; donald.mccloskey@pseg.com[donald.mccloskey@pseg.com]; donaldvf@aol.com[donaldvf@aol.com]; Doug Willett[doug.willett@sbcglobal.net]; dpdavis@brwncald.com[dpdavis@brwncald.com]; ducks4tcdd@yahoo.com[ducks4tcdd@yahoo.com];

dvoight@otiesolutions.com[dvoight@otiesolutions.com]; E Rogak[erogak@panynj.gov]; ecote@recuperesol.com[ecote@recuperesol.com]; Ed Hinchey[edhinchey@yahoo.com]; egarvey@louisberger.com[egarvey@louisberger.com]; Elisa Brown[ebrown1027@gmail.com]; Elizabeth Butler[Butler.Elizabeth@epa.gov]; Elizabeth.A.Franklin@usace.army.mil[Elizabeth.A.Franklin@usace.army.mil]; ellanora@comcast.net[ellanora@comcast.net]; ellen.b.simon@usace.army.mil[ellen.b.simon@usace.army.mil]; Ells, Steve[Ells.Steve@epa.gov]; eseelman@langan.com[eseelman@langan.com]; fallon@northjersey.com[fallon@northjersey.com]; fcinj@optonline.net[fcinj@optonline.net]; Fdar9@aol.com[Fdar9@aol.com]; fengh@montclair.edu[fengh@montclair.edu]; fennell@envsci.rutgers.edu[fennell@envsci.rutgers.edu]; Fightin Gil[fightingil63@aol.com]; fjafari@soiltek.net[fjafari@soiltek.net]; fmohsen@exponent.com[fmohsen@exponent.com]; Foley, Mary[Foley.Mary@epa.gov]; frduggan@gmail.com[frduggan@gmail.com]; fred.ellerbusch@us.rhodia.com[fred.ellerbusch@us.rhodia.com]; Fredi Pearlmutter[fpearlmutter@lindabury.com]; frenv@aol.com[frenv@aol.com]; fxbrowne@fxbrowne.com[fxbrowne@fxbrowne.com]; GaddisDM@cdmsmith.com[GaddisDM@cdmsmith.com]; Gary Gengel[gary.gengel@lw.com]; Gary Gorski[garygorski@gmail.com]; gary.fisher@alcatel-lucent.com[gary.fisher@alcatel-lucent.com]; gcoscia@langan.com[gcoscia@langan.com]; gdmv@aol.com[gdmv@aol.com]; gene.peck@viridianalliance.com[gene.peck@viridianalliance.com]; George Clark[georgeclark@dioxins.com]; George Frame[George.W.Frame@gmail.com]; Georgia Chijoke[adannem1@AOL.COM]; Ginny Root[ginny_root@oxy.com]; gorringm@mail.montclair.edu[gorringm@mail.montclair.edu]; Greenberg, Marc[Greenberg.Marc@epa.gov]; Guillermo Saar[guillermosaar@live.com]; Hair, Lisa[Hair.Lisa@epa.gov]; Hart, Michael[Hart.Michael@epa.gov]; harvey.morginstin@gmail.com[harvey.morginstin@gmail.com]; hayes@aquasurvey.com[hayes@aquasurvey.com]; Hea Youn Kim[hykim_ut@yahoo.com]; heimbuch@demaximis.com[heimbuch@demaximis.com]; hibba.wahbeh@usace.army.mil[hibba.wahbeh@usace.army.mil]; Hick, Patricia[Hick.Patricia@epa.gov]; hostileblonde@optonline.net[hostileblonde@optonline.net]; Ironbound Super Neighborhood[ironbound.sncc.corrs.sec@gmail.com]; J Wells[jwells@environcorp.com]; Jane Freemeyer[jfreemye@maxxam.ca]; janine.macgregor@dep.state.nj.us[janine.macgregor@dep.state.nj.us]; Jay Meegoda[Meegoda@njit.edu]; jblaney@Langan.com[jblaney@Langan.com]; jchningson@aol.com[jchningson@aol.com]; jdanis@nrdc.org[jdanis@nrdc.org]; jdeason@dawsonassociates.com[jdeason@dawsonassociates.com]; jdeason@gwu.edu[jdeason@gwu.edu]; Jennifer Bryz[Jen.Bryz-Gornia@arcadis-us.com]; JenniferG@passaiccountynj.org[JenniferG@passaiccountynj.org]; Jerry_willis@nps.gov[Jerry_willis@nps.gov]; Jessica Hurley[vlkswgn@hotmail.com]; jfitzpatrick@hydroqual.com[jfitzpatrick@hydroqual.com]; jgullace@mgkflaw.com[jgullace@mgkflaw.com]; Jim@hudsonriver.org[Jim@hudsonriver.org]; jjburns@cox.net[jjburns@cox.net]; jjmcateer@msn.com[jjmcateer@msn.com]; jlawton@environcorp.com[jlawton@environcorp.com]; jmdamon@sevenson.com[jmdamon@sevenson.com]; jmhouse@sevenson.com[jmhouse@sevenson.com]; jo3n@msn.com[jo3n@msn.com]; joan.olawski-stiener@dep.state.nj.us[joan.olawski-stiener@dep.state.nj.us]; Jock Merriam[jock.merriam@shawgrp.com]; joelesky@matrix7.com[joelesky@matrix7.com]; John Holt[jholt@holtpa.com]; john.E.Vidumsky@usa.dupont.com[john.E.Vidumsky@usa.dupont.com]; john@fehrenbach.biz[john@fehrenbach.biz]; jonathan@jaffecom.com[jonathan@jaffecom.com]; jones@bnl.gov[jones@bnl.gov]; Joseph.Steinbacher@obg.com[Joseph.Steinbacher@obg.com]; Joy Young[joyyoung@deloitte.com]; jpace@imcs.rutgers.edu[jpace@imcs.rutgers.edu]; jpekala@environcorp.com[jpekala@environcorp.com]; jroe@lockelord.com[jroe@lockelord.com]; jsamsonphd@gmail.com[jsamsonphd@gmail.com]; jsontag@biogenesis.com[jsontag@biogenesis.com]; Jtripp@environmentaldefense.org[Jtripp@environmentaldefense.org]; jweis@andromeda.rutgers.edu[jweis@andromeda.rutgers.edu]; jweiss@targetcoatings.com[jweiss@targetcoatings.com]; jwollenberg@elminc.com[jwollenberg@elminc.com]; K Rasovic[krasovic@rutgers.edu];

kaattonito@news12.com[kaattonito@news12.com]; Katherine Hammers[khammers@honigman.com]; kblankenship@jfgdlaw.com[kblankenship@jfgdlaw.com]; kdmcquick@gw.dec.state.ny.us[kdmcquick@gw.dec.state.ny.us]; Kegan Brown[kegan.brown@lw.com]; Kelly Clemmons[kclemons@terratherm.com]; kirkrbarrett@yahoo.com[kirkrbarrett@yahoo.com]; Klepp, Robert[Klepp.Robert@epa.gov]; Kluesner, Dave[kluesner.dave@epa.gov]; kmack@kl.com[kmack@kl.com]; kris.vannaerssen@aecom.com[kris.vannaerssen@aecom.com]; krking@umich.edu[krking@umich.edu]; krugem@mail.montclair.edu[krugem@mail.montclair.edu]; Kurt Pugh[kpugh@terracontracting.net]; kuziolaa@bboed.org[kuziolaa@bboed.org]; L.Hiemstra@boskalis.nl[L.Hiemstra@boskalis.nl]; Laura Kelm[lkelm@greatswamp.org]; lazarv@aol.com[lazarv@aol.com]; lennyt22@gmail.com[lennyt22@gmail.com]; Libby Smith[lsmith@gsiws.com]; Linda Logan[llogan@anchorqea.com]; Lisa.A.Baron@usace.army.mil[Lisa.A.Baron@usace.army.mil]; lisaryan@hackensackriverkeeper.org[lisaryan@hackensackriverkeeper.org]; llaport@comcast.net[llaport@comcast.net]; llevine@nrdc.org[llevine@nrdc.org]; Louis Shenman[lshenman@aol.com]; lpollock@drew.edu[lpollock@drew.edu]; lziccardi@exponent.com[lziccardi@exponent.com]; M Moran[mmoran@njlaborers.org]; mail@nynjbaykeeper.org[mail@nynjbaykeeper.org]; mandegruber@gmail.com[mandegruber@gmail.com]; maribel@jerseyhistory.org[maribel@jerseyhistory.org]; marion_craig@urscorp.com[marion_craig@urscorp.com]; Mark Fitzsimmons[mfitzsimmons@steptoe.com]; Mark Meyers[mmeyers@anchorqea.com]; Mark Otis[motis@maxymillian.com]; Mark Terril[terril@ppg.com]; mark.herzberg@dep.state.nj.us[mark.herzberg@dep.state.nj.us]; mark.jaworski@westonsolutions.com[mark.jaworski@westonsolutions.com]; mark.lillie@kirkland.com[mark.lillie@kirkland.com]; mark_wine@kirkland.com[mark_wine@kirkland.com]; Mary Mears[Mears.Mary@epa.gov]; Masseil Ferrara[mferrara@hcnj.us]; matthammel@taylorhammel.com[matthammel@taylorhammel.com]; mayojj@cdm.com[mayojj@cdm.com]; mbehan@harborrmc.com[mbehan@harborrmc.com]; mcclary@fdu.edu[mcclary@fdu.edu]; MCNALLY.JOHN@cleanharbors.com[MCNALLY.JOHN@cleanharbors.com]; medwards@exponent.com[medwards@exponent.com]; Megan.B.Grubb@usace.army.mil[Megan.B.Grubb@usace.army.mil]; Mehran, Reyhan (NOAA)[Reyhan.Mehran@noaa.gov]; mhenning@environcorp.com[mhenning@environcorp.com]; Michael Galligin[mgalliga@us.ibm.com]; Michael McGowan[McGowan.Michael@epa.gov]; michael.vancil@lanxess.com[michael.vancil@lanxess.com]; mjhadar@comcast.net[mjhadar@comcast.net]; mlaska@geeinc.net[mlaska@geeinc.net]; mmackie@geotransinc.com[mmackie@geotransinc.com]; mnewell@ramapo.edu[mnewell@ramapo.edu]; mpm@mmctlaw.com[mpm@mmctlaw.com]; mpotts@environcorp.com[mpotts@environcorp.com]; mrussell4pnl@gmail.com[mrussell4pnl@gmail.com]; mslowinski@slowinskiatkins.com[mslowinski@slowinskiatkins.com]; msteinberg@morganlewis.com[msteinberg@morganlewis.com]; mthiagaram@yu-associates.com[mthiagaram@yu-associates.com]; mwmarcus@marcusassoc.net[mwmarcus@marcusassoc.net]; N Azario[nazario@aquasurvey.com]; Nace, Charles[Nace.Charles@epa.gov]; nan.bernardo@basf.com[nan.bernardo@basf.com]; Naranjo, Eugenia[Naranjo.Eugenia@epa.gov]; Neal Grasso[neal.grasso@fticonsulting.com]; neil.geevers@boskalis.com[neil.geevers@boskalis.com]; nereidsec@hotmail.com[nereidsec@hotmail.com]; nspindel@lowenstein.com[nspindel@lowenstein.com]; Nyman, Robert[Nyman.Robert@epa.gov]; oneillj@northjersey.com[oneillj@northjersey.com]; Oscar Beckman[obeckman@maxxam.ca]; otto@demaximis.com[otto@demaximis.com]; panid@hydroqual.com[panid@hydroqual.com]; pardir@wpunj.edu[pardir@wpunj.edu]; Patrick Gwinn[pgwinn@integral-corp.com]; Paul.Sabalis@nan02.usace.army.mil[Paul.Sabalis@nan02.usace.army.mil]; pegllc@comcast.net[pegllc@comcast.net]; Peter.M.Weppler@nan02.usace.army.mil[Peter.M.Weppler@nan02.usace.army.mil]; peter.simon@annarbortechnicalservices.com[peter.simon@annarbortechnicalservices.com]; pjbluestein@tierra-inc.com[pjbluestein@tierra-inc.com]; pmcisaac@stl-inc.com[pmcisaac@stl-inc.com];

prezantr@mail.montclair.edu[prezantr@mail.montclair.edu];
prokopis.christou@benjaminmoore.com[prokopis.christou@benjaminmoore.com];
prra.row3@verizon.net[prra.row3@verizon.net];
r.gascoyne@westonsolutions.com[r.gascoyne@westonsolutions.com]; Ray Basso[Basso.Ray@epa.gov];
RBarnesPohjonen@elminc.com[RBarnesPohjonen@elminc.com];
rbraun@pfisterchemical.com[rbraun@pfisterchemical.com];
rdougherty@citybloom.org[rdougherty@citybloom.org];
rdumas@cleanearthinc.com[rdumas@cleanearthinc.com]; Reiss Carscadden[rcarscadden@integral-corp.com]; revfharper@greenfaith.org[revfharper@greenfaith.org]; rfarr@njdwsc.com[rfarr@njdwsc.com];
rgermann@lowerpassaiccpg.com[rgermann@lowerpassaiccpg.com];
rich.felsing@gmail.com[rich.felsing@gmail.com]; Richard Jeuness[rlajeunesse@graydon.com];
Richard.F.Schwer@usa.dupont.com[Richard.F.Schwer@usa.dupont.com];
richard.wroblewski@givaudan.com[richard.wroblewski@givaudan.com];
richardsonn@battelle.org[richardsonn@battelle.org]; richda@ci.newark.nj.us[richda@ci.newark.nj.us];
rick.carr@testamericainc.com[rick.carr@testamericainc.com];
rlaw@demaximis.com[rlaw@demaximis.com]; Rmcnutt354@aol.com[Rmcnutt354@aol.com];
rmiller@hydroqual.com[rmiller@hydroqual.com];
rmorrow@cleanearthinc.com[rmorrow@cleanearthinc.com];
robert.paulson@minergy.com[robert.paulson@minergy.com];
robert_burr@ios.doi.gov[robert_burr@ios.doi.gov]; rodgersp@battelle.org[rodgersp@battelle.org];
roeleriksen@verizon.net[roeleriksen@verizon.net]; Rosman, Lisa (NOAA)[Lisa.Rosman@noaa.gov];
rrichards@njpac.org[rrichards@njpac.org]; rwe205@nyu.edu[rwe205@nyu.edu];
s.jones@westonsolutions.com[s.jones@westonsolutions.com];
sallen@normandeau.com[sallen@normandeau.com]; sandsenv@aol.com[sandsenv@aol.com];
sara.grossman@gmail.com[sara.grossman@gmail.com]; sbatty@aNJec.org[sbatty@aNJec.org];
schmied@ldeo.columbia.edu[schmied@ldeo.columbia.edu]; Schulz, Susan[Schulz.Susan@epa.gov];
Science@CleanOceanAction.org[Science@CleanOceanAction.org]; Scott Dvorak[Scott.Dvorak@tpl.org];
scott.douglas@dot.state.nj.us[scott.douglas@dot.state.nj.us];
sean.gormley@amec.com[sean.gormley@amec.com];
serkan.mahmutoglu@earthtech.com[serkan.mahmutoglu@earthtech.com]; Sheldon Lipke[slipke@sjlconsultants.com]; Sid Archinal[sid.archinal@shawgrp.com];
Slipke@aol.com[Slipke@aol.com]; smarks@hudsoncountynj.org[smarks@hudsoncountynj.org];
snanney@passaicriver.org[snanney@passaicriver.org]; snapprow@msn.com[snapprow@msn.com];
spark07105@yahoo.com[spark07105@yahoo.com]; srubin@greatswamp.org[srubin@greatswamp.org];
ST Singer[stsinger@verizon.net]; Stephanie Vaughn[Vaughn.Stephanie@epa.gov];
Steven.R.Weinberg@nan02.usace.army.mil[Steven.R.Weinberg@nan02.usace.army.mil];
susan_harden@urscorp.com[susan_harden@urscorp.com];
suzanne.shannon@dep.state.nj.us[suzanne.shannon@dep.state.nj.us];
swatson@wnj.com[swatson@wnj.com]; Sy, William[Sy.William@epa.gov];
tait.chirenje@stockton.edu[tait.chirenje@stockton.edu]; Tanya Mascarich[tmascarich@windelsmarx.com];
Tara Casella[tcasella@parks.essexcountynj.org]; tdhassett@ashland.com[tdhassett@ashland.com];
tfote@jcaa.org[tfote@jcaa.org]; thirdriverbank@yahoo.com[thirdriverbank@yahoo.com]; Thomas Puchner[tpuchner@phillipslytle.com]; thomas.belton@dep.state.nj.us[thomas.belton@dep.state.nj.us];
tijaz@geotransinc.com[tijaz@geotransinc.com]; tltrabucco@aol.com[tltrabucco@aol.com];
tmesevage@vertellus.com[tmesevage@vertellus.com]; Tom Pietrykoski[tpietrykoski@gmail.com];
tom.brosnan@noaa.gov[tom.brosnan@noaa.gov]; TomDuch@optonline.net[TomDuch@optonline.net];
Tony Slinn[tony.slinn@ihs.com]; totten@envsci.rutgers.edu[totten@envsci.rutgers.edu];
tpwilson@usgs.gov[tpwilson@usgs.gov]; traap@entact.com[traap@entact.com];
tricia.aspinwall@usace.army.mil[tricia.aspinwall@usace.army.mil];
tsangc@CDM.com[tsangc@CDM.com]; tsullivan@bnl.gov[tsullivan@bnl.gov];
turtle34@comcast.net[turtle34@comcast.net]; Una Kang[ukang@saiber.com]; Vamsee Veera[vveera@keyenvir.com]; vigano@irsa.cnr.it[vigano@irsa.cnr.it];
vmagar@environcorp.com[vmagar@environcorp.com]; w.iden@comcast.net[w.iden@comcast.net];
Warren Faure[warren.faure@sunchemical.com]; warrenwl@dbr.com[warrenwl@dbr.com];
wchesner@chesnerengineering.com[wchesner@chesnerengineering.com];
weis@umdnj.edu[weis@umdnj.edu]; Wen Ku[wku@anchorqea.com];

wes.ganter@pgenv.com[wes.ganter@pgenv.com]; whyatt@kl.com[whyatt@kl.com]; william.f.slezak@usace.army.mil[william.f.slezak@usace.army.mil]; William.McElroy@libertyiu.com[William.McElroy@libertyiu.com]; william.p.shadel@usace.army.mil[william.p.shadel@usace.army.mil]; william.warren@dbr.com[william.warren@dbr.com]; Winfield, Richard[Winfield.Richard@epa.gov]; wmceaton@bennettenv.com[wmceaton@bennettenv.com]; worlddredging@aol.com[worlddredging@aol.com]; wum@mail.montclair.edu[wum@mail.montclair.edu]; Zach Moylen[zmoylen@passaicriver.org]; Zachos, George[Zachos.George@epa.gov]; zipf@cleanoceanaction.org[zipf@cleanoceanaction.org]; Artie Mandel[Arthur.mandel@mail.house.gov]; Erica Daughtrey[Erica.daughtrey@mail.house.gov]; George Helmy[George_Helmy@booker.senate.gov]; Kathleen Hazlett[kathleen.hazlett@mail.house.gov]; Kellie Drakeford[kellie_drakeford@menendez.senate.gov]; Laverne Alexander[laverne.alexander@mail.house.gov]; Pam Thievon[PamelaThievon@mail.house.gov]; Paul Brubaker[paul_brubaker@menendez.senate.gov]; Richard Barsa[richard.barsa@mail.house.gov]; Sarah Jones[sarah.jones@mail.house.gov]; Tim Hillmann[Tim_Hillmann@menendez.senate.gov]; Tom Pietrykoski[thomas.pietrykoski@mail.house.gov]
From: Kluesner, Dave
Sent: Tue 5/6/2014 7:33:09 PM
Subject: EPA Extends Public Comment Period on Cleanup Plan

EPA Extends Public Comment Period on Cleanup Plan for Passaic River

Promotes May 7th and May 21st Public Meetings

Contact: Elias Rodriguez, (212) 637-3664, rodriguez.elias@epa.gov

(New York, N.Y. – May 7, 2014) On April 11, 2014, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a proposed cleanup to remove 4.3 million cubic yards of highly contaminated sediment from the lower eight miles of the Passaic River in New Jersey. The sediment in the Passaic River is severely contaminated with dioxin, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), heavy metals, pesticides and other contaminants from more than a century of industrial activity. The lower eight miles of the Passaic is the most heavily contaminated section of the river. Ninety percent of the volume of contaminated sediments in the lower Passaic are in the lower eight miles of the river. The EPA is proposing bank-to-bank dredging – one of the largest volumes ever to be dredged under the EPA's Superfund program – followed by capping of the river bottom. The agency is extending the public comment period, which was set to end on June 20 to a new deadline for public comments of July 21, 2014.

The EPA will hold three public meetings to explain the proposal and accept verbal comments. People may also submit written comments by mail or email.

* May 7, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Portuguese Sports Club

55 Prospect Street

Newark, NJ, 07105

* May 21, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Franklin School auditorium

100 Davis Avenue

Kearny, NJ 07032

* June 2014 in Belleville, New Jersey

Details to be determined

To submit written comments by mail or email, please send them to:

Alice Yeh, Remedial Project Manager

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

290 Broadway, New York, New York 10007-1866

(212) 637-4427

PassaicLower8MileComments.Region2@epa.gov

The plan for the lower eight miles of the Passaic River is available at http://www.epa.gov/region02/passaicriver. Follow EPA Region 2 on Twitter at http://www.twitter.com/eparegion2 and visit our Facebook page, http://www.facebook.com/eparegion2

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David Kluesner

U.S. EPA - Manhattan Office

Public Affairs Division

290 Broadway, NY, NY 10007

work: 212 637-3653

cell: 347 330-9439

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