

HUDSON RIVER PCB REPORT CARD

Governor Pataki

A-

Governor Pataki continues to play a constructive role in the Hudson River cleanup process. Not only was his support crucial in getting EPA to order GE to get PCBs out of the river in the first place, but he created a Hudson River Task Force, led by the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), to help ensure the views of all interested parties are considered. Only some late-summer foot-dragging by the DEC that delayed the start of the core sampling process by a few weeks, and delays in cleaning up the GE plant sites, particularly the 004 outfall in Ft. Edward, kept the Governor from receiving a solid A grade.

EPA

B

The EPA Region 2 office has made great strides in addressing the concerns of local residents and other interested parties in the past twelve months. Of particular note was the opening of a regional field office in Ft. Edward. EPA staff has used the office for numerous public outreach sessions and have greatly reversed earlier criticisms for failing to inform upriver residents about the agency's plans. And, clearly, the EPA needs to be tougher on GE, which is millions of dollars behind in reimbursing the agency for its out-of-pocket cleanup expenses to date.

General Electric

D

General Electric earned a D because it continues to drag its feet on the clean up and duck its financial responsibilities. Working behind the scenes GE continues to needlessly prolong negotiations related to the clean up and restoration of this great river. Sadly, GE failed to seize the opportunity to become a constructive team player. And by reimbursing the EPA only \$5 million of the \$37 million dollars owed to the federal government, GE has not shouldered its financial responsibility.

Rep. John Sweeney

D

As the congressional representative of the cleanup zone, Congressman Sweeney has not been playing a helpful or unifying role. Offered a seat on the Governor's Task Force, Sweeney has failed to attend, or even send a representative. On the other hand, his so-called advisory group is only open to those opposing the clean up. To improve his grade, Representative Sweeney must learn to play well with others.

