

Committee on Resources

Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans

Statement

Testimony Submitted For the Record

By

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R. Legislative District 10

Before the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation,

Wildlife and Oceans

Dover Township Municipal Complex

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Good morning. I am pleased to present the following testimony to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans. The following comments reflect the opinions and sentiments of the tenth state legislative district comprising part of Ocean and Monmouth Counties of New Jersey.

The salient point in this debate is simple. If it has been decided that the use of dredge spoils is an appropriate removal/treatment technology in the (H.A.R.S.) than there should be absolutely no doubt that the materials are in fact clean. Can we be guaranteed that the soil identified for use in this site is safe? There seems to be much controversy about the levels of toxicity in this soil as well as questions regarding what in fact constitutes safe dredge spoils.

I am under the impression that the dredge spoils contain levels of mercury, DDT, hydrocarbons and other know carcinogens. Further, there seems to be some disagreement regarding the levels of PCB's in this soil. Additionally, the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the USEPA appear to have reinvented their own classification systems for contaminated soils. Based upon the information that I was provided, the Federal Government's new classification system (that lists toxic elements in parts-per-billion) is a significant departure from the EPA's 1997 classifications. Can we decisively say that this capping material presents absolutely no toxic threat?

We are reminded of the historical implications of sludge dumping such as the outbreak of fin disease in the seventies in the New York Bight waters. Equally disturbing are the effects that we cannot readily see - the long term health and environmental consequences of utilizing soil that, at the minimum, has a questionable classification as 'safe.'

All of us have an extremely crucial decision making opportunity in this matter. Our actions will undoubtedly provide a precedent for future decisions regarding the possible use of dredge spoils. In testament to the opinions and observations I have outlined here, I would like to draw everyone's attention to Senate Resolution 25 as well as to Assembly Resolution 81. These resolutions denounce disposal of dredged spoils at the dump site off of Sandy Hook by the Army Corps of Engineers and memorialize the Governor, Attorney General and Commissioner of the DEP to initiate legal action in the federal courts to block resumption of the deplorable ocean dumping project.

Thank you for your time and your attention to this testimony.

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