

*Kingston, NY* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today released the following statement regarding the start of General Electric's (GE) work to dredge polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from the Hudson River. For decades, the congressman has helped lead the effort to require GE to remove the toxic chemicals it dumped into the river over the course of three decades. As a result of PCB discharges from two GE plants, the upper Hudson River is one of the nation's largest Superfund sites.

"Today we begin to reclaim the Hudson River and shed it of the pollutants that for decades have taken an enormous toll on the river's economic, recreational, and environmental resources. The Hudson River is an iconic waterway with a rich history. By removing PCBs from the Hudson, we will improve public health, revitalize the river, make it more inhabitable to fish and other species, strengthen the businesses and industries that depend on a clean waterway, and pass along a healthy river to future generations.

"Getting to this moment has taken a lot of hard work, but we have never wavered from our goal of holding the company that polluted the river responsible for its actions. I look forward to seeing the dredging completed and the restoration of America's greatest river."