

NEWS RENSSELAER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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O'BRIEN OPPOSES PCB DUMPING IN EAST GREENBUSH

Rensselaer County Legislature Minority Leader Ginny O'Brien strongly opposes a proposal by the Albany Port Commission to dispose of dredged material containing PCBs in the Town of East Greenbush. She is also calling for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to hold a public hearing on the matter in the Town of East Greenbush, where DEC could provide information and/or residents could comment.

"This is an outrageous idea," said O'Brien. "At a time when the PCB cleanup of the Hudson River is such a sensitive issue, I cannot believe the Port of Albany would think about disposing of any PCBs in such an inconsiderate manner."

The Albany Port District Commission has filed an application with NYS DEC to dump dredged material at a site owned by the State Office of General Services located in East Greenbush off of Riverside Avenue Extension, just south of the Gold Bond Facility.

O'Brien, former East Greenbush Town Board member, noted that "East Greenbush is in the process of developing its waterfront and the dumping of dredged material from the Port in our Town could have a devastating impact on those plans."

O'Brien is calling for the application to be denied but, at the very least, has urged that a public hearing on the Port's application be held in the Town of East Greenbush. "There should be an open meeting where DEC can explain the particulars of the proposal to the community being affected. The community ought to have an opportunity to give their public opinions on the plan, as well."

A legal notice in the October 5, 2007 issue of the Albany newspaper said the Albany Port District Commission proposes to modify their existing maintenance dredging permit to allow for the disposal of approximately 8,500 cubic years of material from the Port of Albany and 1,350 cubic years of material from the Rensselaer Port to the East Greenbush site.