Poughkeepsie Journal
POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y.
D. 35,739 SUN. 41,003

JAN 23 1976

Dyson Supported By Group

The Council of Industry of Southeastern New York has strongly supported state Commerce Commissioner John S. Dyson's call to allow the General Electric Co. to continue dumping PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls) into the Hudson River in the hopes of saving industrial jobs.

In a letter to Dyson, signed by the Council's executive vice president William K. Hayes, the Council wrote, "We compliment you on your strong stand for rational thinking in the General Electric matter and urge you to discount those here in your home area who find it easy to be indignant over your position because the 1,200 families whose futures are at stake are a hundred miles away."

Last week, Dyson called for a halt to hearings being conducted by the state Department of Environmental Conservation and said New York State should not adopt stricter laws against PCB's than are in force in other parts of the nation. He said that if General Electric is forced to stop polluting the Hudson River with PCB's, the company's plants at Hudson Falls and Fort Edwards could be forced to close resulting in the loss of up to 1,200 jobs.

The state DEC is seeking to halt all PCB's discharges into the Hudson by the General Electric Co. by Sept. 30, 1976 and the federal Environmental Protection Agency has also announced plans to completely halt the discharge of PCB's into the Hudson after July 1, 1977. General Electric is seeking to continue the dumping of between three and four ounces of the toxic industrial chemical into the Hudson because it says a complete halt is technically and economically not feasible.

Hayes said the council's stand was endorsed by its board of directors. Among the members of the council's board are William A. Kling, vice president of Central Hudson; Charles DeWitt, plant manager of Western Publishing Co., Inc.; and Robert Souers of the Floatco Company, Wappingers Falls. ➢

MONS 032901