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FOR MONSANTO

PROGRAM EDITORIAL

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STATION WHLI

CITY HEMPSTEAD, NY

BROADCAST EXCERPT

JERRY CARR: This is Jerry Carr with an editorial for the management of WHLI.

The results of a two-year study of contamination in the Hudson River have just been released by two respected public interest groups whose conclusions, to put it mildly, should be frightening to all New Yorkers. Federal and state authorities have not challenged the findings by the Environmental Defense Fund and the New York Public Interest Research Group. They charge that dozens of poisonous chemicals, many of them cancer causing, are being poured into the Hudson by hundreds of industrial plants without any regulation by the state and federal governments. Now you might say, what about the two billion dollars spent over the last ten years to upgrade sewage treatment plants in an all out campaign to clean up the Hudson. Well, it turns out that many of those plants are not designed to remove toxic chemicals from the water.

The largest single source of chemical pollution in the Hudson has been well publicized. It is the General Electric Plant near Albany whose discharge of PCBs over the past thirty years has led to the closing of most of the rivers to commercial fishing. However, in addition to GE, numerous other industries discharge undetermined amounts of chemical poisons; chromium, lead, zinc, copper, cyanide, DDT, chloroform, oil, and grease among others. The report is especially disturbing because about one hundred fifty thousand New Yorkers get their drinking water from the Hudson and it is being actively studied as a possible major source of water for residents of New York City.

The study says and we quote, "years of bureaucratic delay, coupled with industry callousness, bring us to this situation."

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Now it is very obvious that state and federal officials have refused to order the polluters to safeguard drinking water from threat of these chemical poisons. The situation is going to get worse before it gets better and it won't get better until there is a commitment by federal and state authorities to enforce clean water standards in the Hudson. How do you get that commitment? Well, your Congressmen and representatives in Albany can force it.

It is up to you to let them know that you expect them to do something about this threat to life itself. I'm Jerry Carr for WHLI. That's our editorial opinion. We welcome your comments.