

583419

ROPES & GRAY
225 FRANKLIN STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02110

(617) 423-6100

IN PROVIDENCE:
30 KENNEDY PLAZA
PROVIDENCE, R.I. 02903
(401) 521-6400
TELECOPIER: (401) 521-0910

TELEX NUMBER 940519 ROPGRALOR BSN
TELECOPIER: (617) 423-2377 • (617) 423-7841
(617) 423-6905

IN WASHINGTON
1001 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
SUITE 1200
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004
(202) 626-3900
TELECOPIER (202) 626-3961

February 2, 1989

Ellen M. Mahan, Esquire
U. S. Department of Justice
Environmental Enforcement Section
Land and Natural Resources Division
Room 1742 R
9th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ellen:

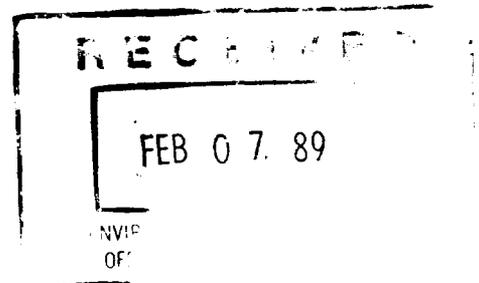
Further to my letter to you of January 23, I am enclosing a copy of a letter which John Brown sent to Dr. James L. Lake at the Narragansett Lab.

Very truly yours,

Paul B. Galvani

PBG/amc
Enclosure

cc: Nancy E. Preis, Esq.
Charles C. Bering, Esq.
Mary K. Ryan, Esq.
David A. McLaughlin, Esq.
Verne W. Vance, Jr., Esq.





Research and Development Center
General Electric Company
PO Box 8, Schenectady, NY 12301
518 387-

Building K1-3B29
January 23, 1989

Dr. James L. Lake
EPA, Environmental Research Laboratory
Narragansett, RI 02882

Dear Jim:

I have just been informed by Paul Galvani, counsel for Aerovox, that I should turn over to EPA several classes of documents relating to the analytical work that we did on Acushnet River sediments back in 1986, and that you could serve as the official EPA recipient of this material. The documentation requested consisted of essentially all available information relating to:

1. Sampling procedures and chain-of-custody proofs
2. Analytical protocols used
3. All analytical data
4. Computer tapes of data.

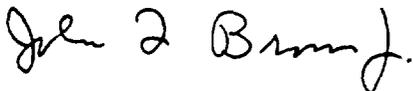
As you may recall, on November 21, 1988 I sent you a voluminous data package, which included both computer print-outs and gas chromatograms of all 24 samples that we analysed, along with a map showing the points of origin of the specimens analysed, GM-MS data, and tables that compiled and summarized our analytical results; in short, all of the available information pertinent to requests (3) and (4). In this letter I include all the data I have regarding requests (1) and (2). Regarding the latter, I could further point out that our procedures have also been described in two of our published papers (Northeast. Environ. Sci., 3:167-179, 1984; Environ. Toxicol. Chem., 6:579-593, 1987). At any event, you are now in possession of all the requested documentation, which I suppose you will have to keep on file until one of your legal colleagues asks for it.

To move from legalism to science, we have been continuing to examine the chromatograms of both biota and sediments from various sites, and continuing to turn up new PCB alteration patterns now and then. At the moment, it looks as though the Pattern H and H' dechlorination, which we found in the upper Achushnet Estuary, may also be occurring at a great many (though not all) sites in the Hudson Estuary, all the way from Troy to the Battery. Fragmentary data suggests that Newark Bay may be a different story, however, as may also be Long Island Sound, and I'd still be interested in any of your samples or chromatograms that indicated what was going on off the rest of the New England Coast.

We have also been able to duplicate a dechlorination that looks very much like Pattern H' in culture, using an anaerobic microbial growth procedure

slightly different from the one John Quensen used to bring up a dechlorination similar to upper Hudson sediment Pattern C. I suspect that someone from our group may be talking about this at our semi-annual Region 1 seminar in Boston (actually, the Cambridge Marriott this time, I think) on February 9. Unfortunately, I won't be able to be there myself, owing to long-standing arrangements for cross-country skiing in Glacier National Park that week, but my colleagues will be able to convey messages or samples.

Sincerely yours,



John F. Brown, Jr.
Manager-Health Research
Biological Sciences Laboratory

JFB/j

Encl.

cc: HL Finkbeiner
PB Galvani