



New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program

Date: April 23, 1997
Subject: HEP CCMP Final Approval
From: Seth Ausubel *S Ausubel*
EPA HEP Coordinator
To: Management Conference members

EPA Administrator Carol Browner recently gave final approval to the HEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. Attached, for your information, are the final approval letters, as well the concurrence letters of Governors Pataki and Whitman.

I want to thank all of you for your contributions to the plan.

Attachments



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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THE ADMINISTRATOR

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) Approval

TO: Jeanne Fox, Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA Region II

The purpose of this memorandum is to convey to you my approval of the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), with the agreement that the Dredged Material Management Chapter will be revised to reflect recent events, including the Administration's Plan. Actions in the CCMP are now eligible for funding, in accordance with the applicable requirements, under Section 319 and Titles II and VI of the Clean Water Act.

The CCMP is an impressive culmination of a public-private effort to determine the problems afflicting the Harbor and to identify their solutions. The CCMP recommends priorities for action, identifies responsible agencies, and includes preliminary agency commitments to implement the majority of the proposed actions.

In fact, I understand the CCMP contains over 300 specific actions that will foster the improvement and maintenance of an ecologically diverse and productive estuarine system. I am impressed with the fact that about 75 percent of those actions constitute existing commitments to implement the Plan. This is certainly one of the biggest strengths of the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program CCMP.

I want to thank you and your staff in Region II for working so diligently with us during the development, review and approval process of the CCMP. This help and hard work are greatly appreciated.

Carol M. Browner
Carol M. Browner

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY REGION II
97 APR -1 12:00
DIV. ENV. PLING PROT.

OPM/PPEB
97 MAR 31 PM 12:11
US EPA



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 25 1997

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Honorable Christine Todd Whitman
Governor of New Jersey
Office of the Governor
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Governor Whitman:

Thank you for your letter of January 21, 1997, in which you concur with the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for the New York/New Jersey Harbor and Bight. I am pleased to add my approval of the CCMP and look forward to our working together in its implementation. The CCMP is an impressive culmination of a public-private process to determine the problems afflicting the Harbor and identify their solutions. Actions in the CCMP are now eligible for funding under Sections 319 and Titles II and VI of the Clean Water Act.

Through its 300 specific action items, the CCMP provides a detailed strategy for protection and restoration of a nationally significant resource, the New York/New Jersey Harbor and Bight ecosystem. I am impressed with the fact that about 75 percent of those actions constitute existing commitments to implement the Plan. This is certainly one of the biggest strengths of the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program CCMP.

I applaud the Management Conference's commitment to oversee implementation of the CCMP. Further, we agree that the dredged material management chapter needs to be revised to reflect recent developments, including the Administration's Plan addressing dredged material management issues for the Harbor, which was announced by the Vice President on July 24, 1996. I am confident that the participating agencies, including EPA, will continue to work together to ensure the CCMP is successfully implemented.

Sincerely,


Carol M. Browner



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 25 1997

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Honorable George E. Pataki
Governor of New York
Executive Chamber
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Pataki:

Thank you for your letter of January 28, 1997, in which you concur with the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for the New York/New Jersey Harbor and Bight. I am pleased to add my approval of the CCMP and look forward to our working together in its implementation. The CCMP is an impressive culmination of a public-private process to determine the problems afflicting the Harbor and identify their solutions. Actions in the CCMP are now eligible for funding under Sections 319 and Titles II and VI of the Clean Water Act.

Through its 300 specific action items, the CCMP provides a detailed strategy for protection and restoration of a nationally significant resource, the New York/New Jersey Harbor and Bight ecosystem. I am impressed with the fact that about 75 percent of those actions constitute existing commitments to implement the Plan. This is certainly one of the biggest strengths of the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program CCMP.

I applaud the Management Conference's commitment to oversee implementation of the CCMP. Further, we agree that the dredged material management chapter needs to be revised to reflect recent developments, including the Administration's Plan addressing dredged material management issues for the Harbor, which was announced by the Vice President on July 24, 1996. I am confident that the stakeholders and participating agencies, including EPA, will continue to work together to ensure the CCMP is successfully implemented.

Sincerely,


Carol M. Browner



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

GEORGE E. PATAKI
GOVERNOR

January 28, 1997

Dear Administrator Browner:

I have reviewed the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary and Bight. I am pleased to indicate my concurrence with the express understanding that the dredged material management chapter will be updated to reflect recent developments in that area.

The Harbor Estuary and Bight is an area of priceless environmental and economic significance for the residents of New York as well as to the surrounding states. Continued efforts to restore and preserve this area are vital to the entire region. The CCMP is an especially important document as it reflects a consensus of a broad spectrum of interested parties, including federal, State and local government, business and industry, scientific, environmental and civic interests. Implementation of this comprehensive plan will require cooperation from all.

New York State is committed to doing its part to implement the CCMP. Recently, New York voters approved a \$1.75 billion Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act designed to address the pressing problems that threaten New York's water and air. The Bond Act will supplement existing State resources available to implement the CCMP by allocating \$25 million for New York Harbor Estuary improvements, \$200 million for Long Island Sound improvements and \$25 million for Hudson River Estuary improvements. It is particularly important that the Federal Government help us in these endeavors, through support for implementation of the estuary management plans, including the CCMP. This will require continued federal appropriations for the State Revolving Loan Fund program and for special estuary restoration initiatives.

The CCMP charts the course required to secure the environmental future of New York Harbor and Bight. New York is committed to working with you and the other parties to achieve success, as reflected in the Joint Dredging Plan for the Port of New York and New Jersey announced on October 7, 1996. The CCMP needs to be revised to recognize the commitments and policy direction inherent in the bi-state agreement and updated accordingly. The Plan should also be updated to reflect the federal

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proposal to close the Mud Dump Site. In so doing, it is imperative that there be an understanding of the legal ramifications of this decision. In this regard, I would ask that you expedite the legal interpretation of the laws, regulations and policies governing the ocean disposal of dredged material as requested in the Dredged Material Management chapter of the CCMP.

Finally, it is necessary that the federal government elaborate on its commitment to the economic viability of the Port since the accelerated closure of the Mud Dump Site will increase the cost of dredged material disposal not anticipated when the CCMP was developed.

I look forward to continuing to work with all parties involved in the Harbor Estuary Plan to protect and preserve the New York Harbor Estuary.

Sincerely,



Carol M. Browner
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, S.W., Room W-1200
Washington, D.C. 20460



State of New Jersey

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CN-001

TRENTON NJ 08625-0001

(609) 292-6000

CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN
Governor

January 21, 1997

Carol M. Browner, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Browner:

The NY-NJ Harbor Estuary was nominated by Governor Kean of New Jersey and Governor Cuomo of New York for inclusion in the National Estuary Program in 1988. Congress also required the preparation of a restoration plan for the New York Bight, and efforts for the Harbor and Bight were joined. New Jersey has supported this effort through three administrations and will continue to support the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary/NY Bight Program Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. Implementation has already begun on a significant number of actions. The State of New Jersey will commit to implementing further actions of the CCMP as funding becomes available.

The development of this plan has been a true public/private partnership with input, not only from government agencies at all levels, but from a diverse coalition of hundreds of citizen volunteers representing different backgrounds and interests. We will continue to strive to include participation by various stakeholders throughout the implementation of this plan to protect the Harbor resource.

I have reviewed the NY-NJ Harbor/NY Bight Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). The CCMP meets all relevant state requirements and is consistent with the Coastal Zone Management Plan in the State of New Jersey. With the understanding that the Management Conference will expeditiously update the dredged material management chapter of the CCMP to reflect significant developments at the federal and state levels, I concur with your pending approval of the CCMP.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Todd Whitman
Governor

C: Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watershed
NY-NJ Harbor Estuary/NY Bight Management
Conference