

**A Brief History of Shareholder Efforts to Hold General Electric
Accountable for the PCB Contamination of the Hudson River
January 10, 2006**

Since 1996, members of the Tri-State Coalition and the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility have called on General Electric to act responsibly and clean up the PCBs it dumped in the Hudson River. The faith-based institutional investors first focused on the need for greater education and warnings about eating the contaminated fish from the Hudson, and in a shareholder proposal asked GE to assist in funding such an educational campaign. In addition, the shareholders brought to light GE's many efforts to avoid liability for the PCB contamination.

In April 1998, a full-page ad appeared in the NY Times asking GE shareholders to support the proposal, and to pressure Vice President Al Gore and the US Environmental Protection Agency to disallow further delays of the Hudson River clean-up. At the GE annual meeting that spring, GE's CEO Jack Welch defended the safety of PCBs and angrily stated: "Sister (Patricia Daly), you owe it to God to start telling the truth."

Tri-State CRI and ICCR members have kept the PCB issue before GE shareholders and management ever since. Since 2000, the resolution has requested that the company disclose its costs related to efforts to postpone clean up of the Hudson, and has received significant support from shareholders.

In 2000, the EPA issued the Rule of Decree (ROD) that GE must clean up the River. The clean-up was due to begin early in 2005; however successful efforts to delay the process have moved the date to 2007, and includes the GE proposal that the company remove only 10% of PCBs slated for removal, to be followed by a review of the process.

In December 2005 GE challenged the "Disclose Costs of Delay of PCB Clean Up" shareholder resolution at the Securities and Exchange Commission, but in doing so released the financial information the shareholders have been requesting. The figures are shocking and confirm the waste of money defending this contamination rather than doing the right thing and cleaning up the pollution.

Next Steps

Shareholders will continue to monitor GE's activities in the clean-up of the PCB contamination, work for continual disclosure of expenditures, and call on GE to stop spending millions of dollars to scale back and further delay the clean-up project.

For Additional Information

GE's report:

www.ge.com/pcbreport

On corporate responsibility:

www.tricri.org

www.iccr.org

On PCBs and the Hudson River:

www.clearwater.org

www.riverkeeper.org

www.scenichudson.org