

REMARKS BY SUSAN BODINE  
ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PASSAIC RIVER CLEANUP  
JUNE 23, 2008

It's a real pleasure for me to join with so many of our partners in announcing this Superfund cleanup agreement. This is a great day for the people of New Jersey, a great day for EPA, and a great day for the Passaic River.

As the head of EPA's Superfund program, I'm particularly proud of this agreement to clean up the lower Passaic River. EPA, our partners in the federal, state, and local governments, and Occidental all worked hard, and we all worked together, to bring this agreement to fruition. Superfund agreements don't always come together this well, or this quickly. But this one did, to the great credit of everyone involved. This is how Superfund is supposed to work, and I'm proud to be a part of it.

This agreement also means a lot to me because of the natural resource at stake here, and what that natural resource means to the people of New Jersey. This isn't just an old, contaminated industrial site. This river is a living resource that was once the joy of New Jersey. And it will be the joy of New Jersey once again when the cleanup is complete.

In the minds of many, Superfund is about the past, cleaning up the mistakes and pollution of the past. But Superfund is also about the future, the future health of people living near Superfund sites, and the future strength of the economy tied to those sites. Here in New Jersey, because of today's agreement, New Jersey's future looks much brighter. The future here is

filled with promise, because a river runs through it, a river that will be clean and healthy and a delight to the people who live here.

Thank you all for your spirit of cooperation and for your dedication to doing the deal. This is an accomplishment that will be remembered and cheered for a very long time.