



## LAKE HARTWELL ASSOCIATION. INC

### PCB Restoration and Compensation Plan

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#### A Position Statement of the Lake Hartwell Association

**Draft - February 17, 2004**

The Lake Hartwell Association is concerned with PCB contamination in Lake Hartwell and its influence on the lake's natural resources as well as the perceived value of the lake as a recreational resource. The Lake Hartwell Association supports the efforts of the USEPA to manage the remedy/remediation and the efforts of the Natural Resources Trustees to develop a settlement (Restoration and Compensation Determination Plan).

Between 1955 and 1977 the Sangamo-Weston capacitor manufacturer released an estimated 400,000 lbs of PCBs into Town Creek, a tributary of Twelve Mile River which is a major arm of Lake Hartwell (this value is of the same magnitude as the PCBs released by GE into the Hudson River). PCBs (chlorinated biphenyls) are toxins with a broad range of effects, including physiological, immunological, developmental and reproductive. PCBs degrade very slowly and remain attached to clay and organic sediments for many decades where they can be mobilized into the lipids of microorganisms and subsequently bio-magnify up the food chain. Contaminated sediments are located within the Twelve Mile River Arm and upper Seneca River Arm of the lake. For the past 30 years the Twelve Mile River and Seneca River Arms of Lake Hartwell have experienced a PCB-contamination based Fish Consumption Advisory, "Do Not Eat Any of the Fish." Within other regions of the lake, an Advisory is in place, but is reduced to recommendations to abstain from, or limit the consumption of migratory fish (Bass).

Under CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act), Federal and State natural resource agencies act as trustees in the public interest. Trustees may assess and recover damages for injuries and losses that occurred to the natural resource as a result of hazardous substances, and they may plan and implement actions to restore, replace, or rehabilitate injured natural resources. The Trustees have released a Draft of the Lake Hartwell Restoration and Compensation Determination Plan on February 11, 2005. The plan is open for public comment for 30 days. The entire plan may be viewed and downloaded at: [www.dnr.state.sc.us/lakehartwell/plan.html](http://www.dnr.state.sc.us/lakehartwell/plan.html)

The plan is divided into two components, Recreational and Ecological. The preferred restoration alternatives under Recreational Services include creation of new fishing opportunities (create off-Hartwell sites or in-Hartwell sub-impoundments to provide PCB-free fishing), improvement of access to fishing (e.g., build jetties in the Hartwell tailrace), or enhance fish through stocking. The value of compensation for Recreational Services is reported to be between 7 and 18 million dollars. The preferred restoration alternative under Ecological Services is the removal of two of the three small dams in Twelve Mile River that impede the passage of clean sediment into Lake Hartwell. Clean sediment is required to cover and mitigate the PCB-contamination of the lake bottom. Following dam removal the stream corridor would be improved.

The Lake Hartwell Association supports efforts to reduce, mitigate or remove the effects of PCB's in Hartwell Lake. There are, however, several comments and suggestions we feel would make the "plan" more agreeable to residents, businesses and recreational users of the lake.

1. Projects of highest priority should be those that mitigate the cause of present and future PCB-contamination, the PCB-contaminated sediments of Twelve Mile River and the upper Seneca River.
2. Restoration or rehabilitation of natural resources within Lake Hartwell is preferred over off-site replacements.
3. Regions of Lake Hartwell that are most impacted by PCB-contamination should be favored in project allocations.
4. In areas where PCB-contamination is long-lived, such that the enhancement of fishing opportunity is not a feasible alternative, then the enhancement of other Lake Hartwell natural-resources should be recognized in project allocations.
5. The users of Lake Hartwell, as well as the citizens of the Lake Hartwell area (Pickens County, Oconee County, & Anderson County in South Carolina, and Hart County & Stephens County in Georgia), must be recognized as stakeholders in the Restoration and Compensation Plan and should be consulted prior to any plan decisions being made unilaterally.
6. Determination of projects and the allocation of monetary resources should be an open process, subject to public input and review. Proposals should be reviewed by a Stakeholders Board comprised of State and Federal Trustees, Natural Resource and Recreational Managers and Resident/User-groups.

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