I'd like to thank Congressman John Hall for inviting me here today and our host Supervisor John Hickman. I'd also like to thank Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson and Ranking Member John Boozman and all the members of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for keeping eyes on the Hudson River Valley and our local challenges for water quality.

I live and work in Brewster, Putnam County, NY. In ten short years my community has moved from being one of the worst polluters of the NYC watershed to a community that embraces its social, economic and environmental responsibilities for all its stakeholders. We have made significant progress for our environmental systems and yet major challenges remain.

Brewster is also home to a superfund site. In 1978, Brewster discovered VOCs in its municipal water supply. Investigations discovered a rogue drycleaner had used a drywell to dispose of his production waste for about 20 years. The drywell was immediately adjacent source of the village water supply.

The site was placed on the National Priorities List of Superfund sites in December 1982.

Shovels in the Ground to Ensure Safe Drinking Water in Brewster:

In 1984 the village under a cooperative agreement with EPA installed a full-scale air stripper which is currently providing safe drinking water to the village.

A Groundwater Management System was developed, installed and fully operational by April of 1997. Four extraction wells feed a packed column air stripper treating a volume of about 50 gallons of water per minute. The extracted treated water is discharged into the East Branch of the Croton River.

In late 1991, approximately 160 tons of contaminated soils were removed from the source site. Final confirmation samples showed that the target cleanup goal of 4 mg/kg for PCE in the un-saturated zone was accomplished- an acceptable health-based level.

In 2007 EPA modified its GMS by adding two extraction wells and a new air stripper at the source site. The new stripper continues to extract approximately 50 gallons of water per minute and discharges into the East Brach of the Croton River. A sub-slab mitigation system was also installed at the source site.

My Observations

The Village of Brewster in partnership with the EPA, DEC, DEP and the Putnam County Board of Health delivers safe drinking water to its residents.

Quoting from the Five Year Review Report prepared by the EPA in 2007: "Groundwater monitoring results do not indicate that the mass reduction of PCE is occurring at the rate anticipated." The 1986 Record of Decision estimated 10 years. Further, "the anticipated

duration of the pumping to reach maximum contaminated levels (MCLs) is not presently known."

PCE levels at the source property continue to exceed safe drinking water standards.

Concentrations of contaminates are generally lower than what was previously observed on the 30 acre site, showing the remedy is improving the quality of the groundwater.

EPA left a door open with the 2007 Five Year Report. What enhancements to the groundwater remedy should be considered? What are the results of air monitoring in the source building? Soil gas samples suggest that residual source material may remain underneath the building. Has the capture plume moved? Has EPA evaluated the performance of the modified GMS? Does the EPA have a plan of action?

EPA Director of Emergency and Remedial Response Division George Pavlou closes his report of 2007 by suggesting that these questions be addressed prior to project transfer to the State.

Documentation and Communication:

The EPA website is a good source for information. The background and case are well documented. Two five year reports from 2002 and 2007 are readily available to anyone wishing to review the history.

In preparation for my testimony I interviewed the current and past Water Superintendents of Brewster, both men were unaware neither of the modified GMS at the source site nor of the potential for residual source material at the source site.

The EPA makes reference to correspondence shared with the Planning Board of the Town of Southeast. It is my recommendation that any correspondence generated by the EPA also be shared with the Brewster Board of Trustees

In the 11 years I served the village in public service, I developed working relationships and friendships with the men and women of the DEC, DEP and County environmental representatives. I am a big proponent of stakeholder engagement from the bottom-up and a systems approach to environmental management. I have not, until today, met representatives of the EPA. I know the Village Board of Trustees would value an opportunity to meet our regional EPA representatives. In partnership, we can work together for continuous improvement of water quality

Next Practices and Stemming Root Causes of Water Pollution:

In addition to all the good work of local, City, State and Federal agencies charged with keeping our water safe for drinking I offer the following:

The EPA has worked closely with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection in creating the MA Environmental Results Program for environmental self-certification in the drycleaners, photo-print shops and printing businesses of Massachusetts. Compliance has risen from under 10% to over 90% in the years since the program's inception. The ERP program is conformance based rather then compliance based. MA DEP offers education, training, and tools to individual business to create an environmental management system. MA DEP performs unannounced audits to ensure compliance.

Auto-body shops, nail salons and any other private enterprise which threatens our drinking water through products or services delivered should be included in the self-certification program.

It is my belief that New York State and water pollution prevention initiatives here could benefit significantly from the implementation of an Environmental Results Program similar to that of Massachusetts.

Closing Comments:

In my opinion, the EPA has earned an academic "A" for taking the lead in protecting drinking water in Brewster. A grade of "B" on the 26 year timeframe thus far (it took 9 years to get to the remediation of source contamination soils). A grade of "B+" for transparency and recommendations listed in the 2002 and 2007 Five Year Reports (I ask for a more proactive approach on the part of the EPA in sharing current information). This is the record, the history.

From a local stakeholder, I pray that the EPA, in collaboration with its partners, earns excellent grades for the future here- anything else would be irresponsible and a danger to the health of Brewster's people.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today and I look forward to our collective water quality success stories.