

RESOLUTIONS - BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING OF AUG. 23, 2016

48:16 OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED ANCHORAGES IN HUDSON RIVER

WHEREAS, The Coast Guard is considering establishing new anchorage grounds in the Hudson River from Yonkers, NY, to Kingston, NY and has proposed a rule establishing new anchorage grounds in the Hudson River from Yonkers, NY to Kingston, NY; and

WHEREAS, the contemplated Yonkers Extension Anchorage Ground would cover 715 acres for up to 16 vessels with a draft of less than 35 feet for long term usage; and

WHEREAS, the Yonkers anchorage is the largest of the proposed sites affecting Yonkers, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson and the Village of Dobbs Ferry, with eight of these anchorage sites located directly to the west of Hastings-on-Hudson; and

WHEREAS, Scenic Hudson, Riverkeeper, the City of Yonkers, Dobbs Ferry and many others have voiced their concern and opposition to the establishing new anchorage grounds; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson has completed a Comprehensive Plan in 2011 that repeatedly acknowledges the importance of the Hudson River to Hastings-on-Hudson, including the views, passive recreational uses, active boating uses, and view corridors enjoyed by thousands; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson is engaged in a restoration of its waterfront, working with the Riverkeeper and BP Arco to ensure that the heavily contaminated waterfront is restored to full use and to the highest standards, including the remediation of the waterfront river bottom directly in front of the former industrial lands referred to by the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation in the Consent Order governing the cleanup of PCBs in this area as Operating Unit 2; and

WHEREAS, the clean-up of these offshore, underwater areas will involve a substantial industrial-scale effort with deployment of barges, dredges, test platforms, boats and the other equipment and facilities necessary to effectuate such a clean-up for several years commencing in 2017 and would be in direct conflict with the mooring uses proposed along the river and the section designated as Operating Unit 2; and

WHEREAS, The presence of parked barges directly adjacent to the remediation will pose unacceptable risks to the clean-up crews needing to navigate this section as they carry out remediation activities and also pose the risk of collisions with said barges, resulting in potential releases of fuel oils and other contaminants in the midst of a major remediation effort; and

WHEREAS, Those seeking to navigate the Hudson River in this scenario would be facing parked barges and a major industrial remediation occupying a significant portion of the Hudson River at this point making such navigation potentially treacherous; and

- WHEREAS,** this clean-up effort is intended to remediate the site so it can be enjoyed by thousands as parkland and for the passive and active waterfront uses which would be restricted and otherwise deleteriously affected by the many barges that would be parked in front of the restored waterfront; and
- WHEREAS,** the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson has paid a steep price for the industrial use of its waterfront and waterways, seeing the direct results that pollution has had on its enjoyment of that said waterfront and believes that parking barges, including those containing oil and oil by-products risks further contamination of an area that the Village is seeking to see remediated after a century of abuse; and
- WHEREAS,** the proposed anchorage site abuts the main shipping channel of the river, which will increase congestion and may lead to collisions; and
- WHEREAS,** recreational boaters will be required be required to navigate either in the main channel used by large commercial vessels or bypass the anchorage to the west in shallow waters; and
- WHEREAS,** large anchoring equipment used by commercial vessels disturbs bottom sediments and can damage wildlife habitats, including those of endangered species residing in the river; and
- WHEREAS,** views of the Hudson will be disturbed for the City of Yonkers, the Village of Hastings and the Village of Dobbs Ferry, and the value of property in the Village of Hastings, as with other river municipalities, relates directly to the views of the Hudson River, especially as this portion of the Hudson River has views preserved into perpetuity by the creation of the Palisades Park on the western shore, creating a unique environment prized by many; and
- WHEREAS,** the anchoring of unmanned, unlit barges potentially carrying large amounts of fuel is a health, safety and welfare concern with the possibilities of spillage, home land security issues and aesthetic concerns; and
- WHEREAS,** The Village of Hastings-on-Hudson lacks the marine resources to adequately patrol and protect our waterfront from the additional threats to our health, safety and welfare caused by these new anchorage grounds; and
- WHEREAS,** all documentation from federal agencies regarding consistency determination of a federal action will be received and forwarded by the Department of State and the municipality for review and recommendation; and
- WHEREAS,** the only notification that has been made by the Coast Guard is through in the Federal Register allowing a 35 day comment period; and
- WHEREAS,** the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson and all other municipalities affected from Yonkers to Kingston have not been so contacted and so we believe that proposed rule 2016-13701 was not promulgated in accordance with proper Federal, State and Local regulations and is therefore should be considered null and void; and

