

Solomon's Toxic Postscript

By Al Kamen

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House Rules Committee Chairman Gerald B.H. Solomon (R-N.Y.) knows how to play hardball on behalf of his business constituents.

It seems the Environmental Protection Agency fined the Glen Falls Cement Co. \$105,000 for violating the Toxic Substances Control Act. EPA said the company couldn't account for what happened to a large amount of PCBs, a highly toxic chemical.

Solomon wrote EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner on behalf of the company and got a reply in November from New York Regional Administrator Jeanne M. Fox.

Solomon wrote Fox on Feb. 6 to say the company "is still trying to negotiate a reasonable settlement of these fines."

"Due to the importance of this company as a regional employer," Solomon said, "I would respectfully request a meeting" of EPA and company officials and a Solomon aide in the congressman's office in Saratoga Springs.

Maybe just in case Fox didn't understand how things work, Solomon added a little thought at the bottom of the letter.

"P.S. Jeanne: We are going to maintain control of the House and Senate. The fact is that the EPA continues to be the most difficult government agency to work with and is totally incapable of any compromise. This does not bode well for the agency in obtaining resources to carry out even its fundamental mission."

Hey Jeanne, get with the program.