

U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**United States  
Coast Guard**



Commandant  
United States Coast Guard

Washington, D.C. **20593-0001**  
Staff Symbol:  
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

U. S. COAST GUARD

STATEMENT OF CAPTAIN DAVID L. FOLSOM

ON TITLE 1 OF PUBLIC LAW 100-688, "THE OCEAN DUMPING BAN ACT OF  
1988"

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SUBCOMMITTEES ON OCEANOGRAPHY AND THE  
GREAT LAKES, OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS, AND FISHERIES AND  
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

COMMITTEE ON MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES

16 MAY 1989

CAPTAIN DAVID L. FOLSOM

CAPTAIN FOLSOM WAS GRADUATED FROM THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ACADEMY IN 1961 AND THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY WITH AN ADVANCED DEGREE IN NAVAL ARCHITECTURE AND MARINE ENGINEERING IN 1967. PREVIOUS COAST GUARD ASSIGNMENTS INCLUDE SEA DUTY ON COAST GUARD CUTTERS BARATARIA AND COOK INLET, FOLLOWED BY ASSIGNMENTS TO MARINE SAFETY DIVISION, NEW YORK, OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND OFFICE OF MERCHANT MARINE SAFETY, COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON, DC. IN JUNE 1976, CAPTAIN FOLSOM WAS ASSIGNED AS CHIEF OF THE MERCHANT MARINE TECHNICAL BRANCH, THIRD COAST GUARD DISTRICT, NY. HE HAS SERVED IN SEVERAL ASSIGNMENTS IN THE FIRST COAST GUARD DISTRICT INCLUDING THE MARINE SAFETY OFFICE IN BOSTON, MA AND PORTLAND, ME. HE ASSUMED HIS PRESENT DUTIES AS CHIEF, MARINE SAFETY DIVISION IN BOSTON AS OF JUNE 1986.

CAPTAIN FOLSOM'S MILITARY AWARDS INCLUDE CG COMMENDATION MEDAL AND THE MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION.

CAPTAIN FOLSOM IS A NATIVE OF SALEM, MA. HE IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER JOAN HATT OF ESSEX, MA.

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THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND GOOD AFTERNOON MR. CHAIRMAN.

I AM CAPTAIN DAVID L. FOLSOM, CHIEF, MARINE SAFETY DIVISION, FIRST COAST GUARD DISTRICT AND REPRESENTING THE COMMANDER FIRST COAST GUARD DISTRICT, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS. I AM PLEASED TO MEET WITH YOU TO DISCUSS THE COAST GUARD'S RESPONSIBILITIES AND ROLE UNDER THE OCEAN DUMPING BAN ACT OF 1988, WHICH AMENDS TITLE I OF THE MARINE PROTECTION, RESEARCH, AND SANCTUARIES ACT OF 1972. THE U. S. COAST GUARD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SURVEILLANCE AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S PERMITTED OCEAN DUMPING PROGRAM. AS SUCH, WE ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE SURVEILLANCE OF SEWAGE SLUDGE DUMPING AT THE DEEPWATER MUNICIPAL SLUDGE DUMP SITE, COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS THE "106 MILE DUMP SITE", WHICH IS LOCATED SOUTHEAST OF NEW YORK HARBOR.

IN 1973 OCEAN SLUDGE DUMPING SURVEILLANCE METHODS ENTAILED USING COAST GUARD PERSONNEL AS SHIPRIDERS. TO REDUCE THE NEED FOR THESE PERSONNEL RESOURCES, THE COAST GUARD'S OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPED AN OCEAN DUMPING SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (ODSS) THAT SHOWS THE DATE AND EXACT TIME THAT A VESSEL IS AT A GIVEN POSITION. THREE HULL TRANSDUCERS HAVE ALSO BEEN PLACED ON EACH VESSEL. THESE TRANSDUCERS OR PRESSURE SENSORS WHICH DETECT CHANGES IN A VESSEL'S DRAFT, ARE COUPLED WITH THE

ELECTRONIC PACKAGE WHICH IS THEN CAPABLE OF DETERMINING AT WHAT RATE THE VESSEL IS DUMPING. THIS INFORMATION IS TRANSMITTED BY FM RADIO TO A BASE STATION AT THE COAST GUARD CAPTAIN OF THE PORT OFFICE ON GOVERNORS ISLAND, NEW YORK. WHEN A VESSEL IS OUT OF DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS RANGE, THE DATA ARE RECORDED AND STORED IN THE MEMORY OF THE VESSEL'S "BLACK BOX" COMPUTER. WHEN RADIO COMMUNICATIONS ARE REESTABLISHED, THE INFORMATION IS TRANSMITTED FROM THE "BLACK BOX" THROUGH THE RELAY STATION BACK TO GOVERNOR'S ISLAND.

ALL SIXTEEN VESSELS AUTHORIZED BY EPA TO DUMP SLUDGE AT THE 106 MILE SITE HAVE THE OCEAN DUMPING SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM INSTALLED. SINCE IMPLEMENTING THE SYSTEM IN JULY 1988, WE HAVE EXPERIENCED SOME EQUIPMENT PROBLEMS; HOWEVER OUR ABILITY TO COLLECT DATA DURING A VESSEL'S ENTIRE TRANSIT HAS STEADILY IMPROVED.

THE HARD COPY PRINT OUT DATA OBTAINED FROM THE SYSTEM IS SENT TO EPA'S REGION II OFFICE IN NEW YORK FOR THEIR REVIEW AND APPROPRIATE ACTION IN PURSUING ANY VIOLATIONS THAT MAY BE INDICATED.

THE COAST GUARD WILL CONTINUE ITS SURVEILLANCE OF THE 106 MILE DUMPSITE UNTIL ALL MUNICIPALITIES NOW USING THE SITE COME INTO COMPLIANCE WITH THE OCEAN DUMPING BAN ACT AND CEASE OCEAN DUMPING OF SLUDGE MATERIAL. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH EPA ON THIS MATTER.

I WILL BE HAPPY TO RESPOND TO YOUR QUESTIONS.