

## CROSS-SOUND CABLE CONTROVERSY

**Schumer on attack****Accuses Conn. officials of 'having it both ways' on environment; author questions his data**BY VÍCTOR MANUEL RAMOS  
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With the dark waters of the Long Island Sound in the background, U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer went after Connecticut officials yesterday.

Armed with what he said was recent data, Schumer (D-N.Y.) complained that while Connecticut officials oppose an underwater electric cable to Long Island because of environmental concerns, they support dumping dredged sludge in the same Sound.

Not only that, he said, but the resulting pollution could be worse than stated in a previous environmental study. Schumer cited a more recent study, which he said showed higher contaminant levels in Bridgeport Harbor sediments that could be dredged and dumped.

"The bottom line is Connecticut is having it both ways," said Schumer, speaking at Port Washington's Bar Beach.

Schumer, who said the data "underscores the basic two-facedness" of Connecticut politics, provided a summary of the 2003 study, issued last year by Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven. Multiple tests showed 63 percent more lead, 23 percent more copper and 25 percent more zinc than found in Bridgeport Harbor sediments by a 1994 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration study used for the environmental review.

However, lead study author Vincent Breslin said his new numbers do not tell the whole story. He said the two studies being compared analyzed different sites and his study was not of dredging sites, as implied.

"That's an oversimplification of the data," said Breslin, a Southern Connecticut State University professor. "I am not certain, specifically, of where they intend to dredge, I can't at this point correlate where one of my sampling locations is with respect to where they want to dredge that sediment."

Connecticut officials said the cable's activation, which they have opposed because it was not dug at the required depth under the Sound, and dumping of dredged sludge are separate matters.

Connecticut attorney general Richard Blumenthal signaled that he could reconsider the dumping issue. "If there is serious and substantial evidence that this dumping causes contamination ... or if it's found to be illegal for any reason we will fight it," Blumenthal said, "and in fact we are reviewing our position on this issue."

North Hempstead Supervisor Jon Kaiman, who joined Schumer, said that North Shore municipalities like his were left out of the loop on the dumping plan. He said that environmental agencies "should be coming up with an answer for all communities along the Sound, helping us to address the

dredging problems that we all have. Not doing it piecemeal."

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