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Dave

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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217-398-6516

March 14, 1984

Mr. William D. Ruckelshaus
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Ruckelshaus:

It is imperative that the environmental Protection Agency take immediate steps to clean up one of Illinois' worst toxic waste dumps, the A&F Materials site in Greenup, by the summer of 1984.

As you are aware, studies have shown the site to contain polychlorinated biphenyls -- PCBs -- toxic metals, various acids and other hazardous substances.

Citizens have complained of numerous maladies -- including headaches, respiratory problems and allergies -- that could be related to the presence of these materials over the years.

These complaints are not new. They were voiced as long ago as 1978. But no action other than temporary remedies has ever been taken. Since 1980, five of these "emergency" actions have cost taxpayers some \$600,000. This money should have been used toward cleaning up the site permanently. Had it been, the expensive "emergency" remedies would not have been necessary.

Now we are informed that, despite the fact that the EPA has been involved in this situation for at least four years, depuration will not even begin until September of 1985, at the earliest. That is completely unacceptable both to the residents of Greenup and to us. The threat posed by spring rains alone makes immediate action imperative. There are one to two million gallons of oil, sludge and contaminated water in two lagoons, along with 140,000 gallons of hazardous chemicals and 11,000 gallons of oil in twelve crumbling storage tanks on the site that, if allowed to spill into the Embarras River, would cause a tragedy of herculean proportions.

The citizens of Greenup are not the only ones affected by this ominous presence. The town of Newton, seat of Jasper County, depends for its water supply in part upon the Embarras River.

Pumping out the disintegrating storage tanks, as has been promised by June, is a step; however, the menace of the toxic lagoons will remain. They must be drained and the material trucked away immediately.

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The EPA has had years to remedy this dangerous condition. It is unfortunate that your agency's interest in this is characterized by comments such as the site poses "no immediate problem" and "we cannot commit to any kind of action at this time." Statements like these serve no purpose other than convincing local residents that the agency has no real interest in assisting them in cleaning up the Illinois' worst toxic waste site sitting in their backyards.

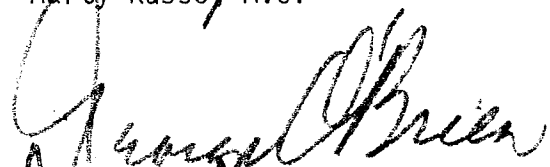
We ask you to specify the criteria you will use for the cleanup of this site and assure us that it will be free of hazardous pollutants and restored to its original (pre-A&F) condition by the summer of 1984.

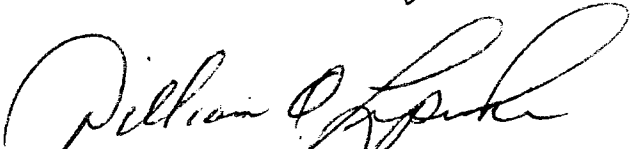
Sincerely,

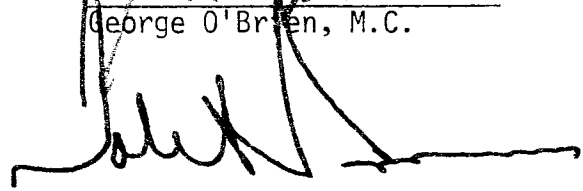

Dan Crane, M.C.

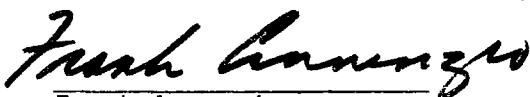

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