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# United States Congress

## The Illinois Delegation

Washington, D.C. 20510

May 17, 1984



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

Dear Mr. Ruckelshaus:

In the last ten days, a serious problem has erupted in southern Illinois. The Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, located in Williamson County, has been found to contain high levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB).

Although it is not presently listed on the national priority list, we believe it should be. We are happy to hear that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) will put it on the national priority listing sometime this summer. However, this is only the first step in cleaning up the site.

Even though the Crab Orchard site is on federal land, we would hope that "Superfund" money could be utilized. The people of southern Illinois, faced with perhaps the most toxic site in the state, would otherwise have to wait while Crab Orchard is allowed to fester for several years before a decision on the clean-up method is made. An active role by the USEPA would speed the clean-up at Crab Orchard.

We realize that Crab Orchard is managed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife, under the direct supervision of the U.S. Department of Interior. However, your agency's expertise in managing toxic waste can be used to assist the Interior Department. In addition, individual members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation have been in contact with Interior officials to work out a solution.

First, the Illinois Congressional Delegation suggests that the estimated \$350,000 needed to conduct a remedial study of the site be allocated. This is one area where Interior and the USEPA could work cooperatively.

Second, the Illinois Congressional Delegation suggests that the estimated \$3 million needed to clean-up the site be funded--

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either through the Interior Department budget, the "Superfund" trust fund, or a combination of the two. Again this is an area where interagency cooperation could provide a solution for the betterment of Illinoisans.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation, and look forward to receiving your timely response.

Sincerely,

Ally Dixon

Bob Michel

Charles H. Percy

George W. Brown

Ed Maligan

Cariss Collins

Bill Brown

Philip M. Crane

Charles A. Hayes

Dick Durkin

Lane Evans

W. J. Hyde

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