

14. February. 2001
Christine Todd Whitman
Administrator
US EPA
sent via fax 202-501-1450

Dear Administrator Whitman,

I write on behalf of the Northeast Ohio American Friends Service Committee to request that you provide the US EPA Ombudsman, Robert Martin, and his Chief Investigator, Hugh Kaufman, sufficient authority, independence and resources to continue their investigating into past practices at the Industrial Excess Landfill (IEL), a Superfund site in Uniontown, Ohio.

A recent Cleveland TV investigation, WKYC, Channel 3, an NBC affiliate, revealed disturbing information from eye-witnesses and technical experts that radiation was dumped by the US Government and, possibly corporations, over the course of several years at the Uniontown dump site. Mr. Martin and Mr. Kaufman have been researching this and other issues over the past number of years. In light of this TV investigation and the subsequent number of diverse individuals who have come forward with related leads, it is imperative that you do all you can to provide these two individuals the wherewithal to continue their independent investigation.

I am also deeply disturbed that public bodies and administrative agencies have capitulated to the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) by allowing these polluting corporations to currently take the lead in testing and other key functions at the IEL site. While such actions by corporations in the view of EPA may be "common practice", they defy common sense -- and point to the need for fundamental change in the rules governing contact between polluting corporations and the areas that they originally polluted.

Corporations are only interested in serving one set of interests -- their own. Corporations should not have greater or even equal authority compared to citizens, democratically elected representatives and publicly accountable regulatory agencies. In this and every case, corporations should be subordinate to the public. Therefore, I ask that you work for the removal of representatives of the polluting corporations from any "leadership" roles at IEL.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss these matters further. I look forward to your positive reply and your commitment to empowering Mr. Martin and Mr. Kaufman to continue their work on behalf of the health and well-being of the citizens and community of Uniontown, Ohio.

Sincerely,

Greg Coleridge
Director
Economic Justice & Empowerment Program
cc: Rep. Tom Sawyer, Ohio
Rep. Ralph Regula, Ohio
Rep. Dennis Kucinich, Ohio
Robert Martin, US EPA Ombudsman
Hugh Kaufman, US EPA Ombudsman Chief Investigator
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