

**Letter to the editor**

Canton Repository

Monday, April 8, 2002

Rep has turned its back on Lake Township citizens group

We were utterly disgusted and horrified by the massive, one-sided stories published in The Rep on Easter regarding the Uniontown dump that read like infomercials promoting the polluters' and Lake Trustees' plan of planting trees on the hundreds of thousands of tons of toxic waste as their "clean-up."

Given all that The Repository knows about the IEL case that it has failed to disclose to the public, particularly in recent months, we were further sickened by the editorial that followed two days later.

The editors appear to have totally capitulated to the plan of allowing the continued leaking of this dump. To cover itself, the paper lamely urges "vigilant" monitoring and "contingency" plans for when the buried barrels break open. It seems the editors suffer from collective amnesia. How else can you explain this ridiculous suggestion, when the paper knows that our citizens group has spent nearly two decades documenting all the "windows" left open at IEL that have possibly allowed toxins to migrate out undetected from IEL at various depths and directions? Just this past year, we saw the agreement struck between the township and polluters to drastically cut back on the number of wells monitored for radiation after only one round. Out of 51 wells, 44 were dropped, after a Rep reporter had been reassured that "seasonal" testing would take place to account for variations. The wells cut included locations that historically showed elevated radiation up to 140 times over background and man-made tritium.

We wonder if The Rep's capitulation has anything to do with an interest to protect certain local entities and officials who were reportedly involved in permitting the dump and who permitted and-or encouraged the building of lagoons at IEL for the disposal of chemical liquids in large volumes, up to 11,000 gallons per day. Why else would The Rep turn its back on fighting for a permanent cleanup to protect our area's water supply, especially when it appears that CCLT is getting a lot closer to holding the Army and the Department of Energy accountable, which could infuse millions of dollars into a real cleanup plan?

We urge all area citizens concerned about protecting our area's ground water and health to attend the public hearing in Uniontown on April 18 at 7 p.m. at the Methodist church (Cleveland Avenue north of the square) and help CCLT block this insane plan.

CHRIS BORELLO

PLAIN TOWNSHIP

President, Concerned Citizens  
of Lake Township