

*Letter to the Editor - Canton Repository*

**Real issue is whether remedy for pollution works at area landfill**

Thursday, October 16, 2003

U.S. EPA Region 5 Superfund Director William Muno's Oct. 3 letter ("Akron activist is misinformed about remedy, monitoring at Uniontown Superfund site") is a sorry attempt to divert attention from real issues about the proposed cleanup at the Industrial Excess Landfill in Uniontown.

Whether MNA (monitored natural attenuation) works at minor toxic sites elsewhere is not the point. Does it work at IEL, a site full of unknown, mixed-waste chemicals, including military materials? Evidence that MNA works at IEL is what I recently requested through the Freedom of Information Act.

MNA has, in effect, been in existence and overseen by IEL's corporate polluters for the last four years. What's the record? The public has a right to know.

MNA experts at U.S. EPA desire scientific evidence that chemical mechanisms for each group of chemicals (i.e., VOCs, metals) are working beyond mere dilution. When questioned, Ohio EPA has admitted no such documentation exists at IEL — after four years.

Equally troubling, Mr. Muno's Region 5 has refused for decades to take core/soil samples at IEL. National guidelines require proper waste characterization at a site before MNA is considered — something that has never happened at IEL.

Now Region 5 plans at IEL to seal off 33 monitoring test wells forever. Many of them previously detected radiation, including man-made tritium. In addition, improper testing and procedures may have compromised results, underestimated toxin levels and incorrectly led to MNA as a remedy.

A local community group, Concerned Citizens of Lake Township, has received a \$50,000 grant to conduct independent testing. These wells should not be sealed until more testing by all parties, including independent testing by citizens, take place. Anything less will continue to fuel the feeling by many that Region 5 has done little more at IEL than bury the truth and protect corporate and military polluters.

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