

FACT SHEET for LETTERS about the UNIONTOWN Industrial Excess Landfill Superfund Site

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For many years, a 30-acre sand and gravel pit in Uniontown was the repository for up to 11,000 gallons-per-day of industrial waste from Akron-area factories. During the Vietnam War -- especially 1969 and 1970 -- the military allegedly buried nuclear weapons waste at the site. (The site is some thirty times larger than the infamous "Love Canal" site in New York.)

A group of Uniontown residents who call themselves the Concerned Citizens of Lake Township has been trying to get the site cleaned up since 1983. Tests by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A.) for radiation were stonewalled until 1990 when levels of radiation THIRTY TIMES OVER FEDERAL LIMITS were detected in well water. Traces of man-made Plutonium were found in later tests. Radiation has been confirmed by both the Ohio E.P.A. and independent labs. Ohio E.P.A. tests have detected radiation levels up to 140 times the expected "background" level, according to a nationally-known expert in the field.

Ironically, the federal E.P.A. has refused to conduct routine core-sample tests on the subsoil layers and denies that radiation is a problem. A cleanup is projected to be in the \$30 - \$40 million range.

It is believed that there are higher-than-normal rates of cancer and birth defects among the 20,000 people who live within a three-mile radius of the I.E.L. site. The ground water aquifer beneath the site is likely to be drawn toward Green and Jackson township due to the increased number of wells that have accompanied the building boom in these area and also due to its proximity to the Tuscarawas River valley (source: Stark Soil & Water Conservation District spokesperson).

Senator Glenn and Representative Regula have not been helpful in supporting the Lake trustees or residents in their attempts to secure further independent investigation, particularly through national ombudsman, Robert Martin.

Currently, Representative Tom Sawyer (Akron area) is doing his best to assist the Lake, Green and Jackson residents despite his not receiving support from the other two legislators.

Write a letter to:

**Sen. John Glenn
Hart Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C.
20510**

**Hon. Ralph Regula
2309 Rayburn Bldg.
Washington, D.C.
20515**

**Akron Beacon Journal
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