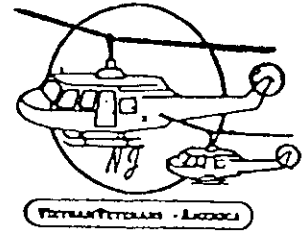




NEW JERSEY STATE COUNCIL VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Post Office Box #1236
Eatontown, NJ 07724



GARY C. WALL
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JACK BRONSON
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JAMES H. BURDGE, SR.
Secretary
CARLTON B. RHODES
Treasurer

PRESS RELEASE

Feb. 14 1993

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The members of the New Jersey State Council remain opposed to the dumping of dioxin-contaminated sludge at the "Mud Dump". We are not, nor have we been, opposed to the dredging operation, and we fully understand the economic impact of failing to dredge the Newark Bay.

While we understand the economic impact, however, we feel that the Environmental Protection Agency, The Port of Authority, and the Army Corps of Engineers have woefully underestimated and blatantly ignored the health issues associated with dioxin in the food chain.

We further state, for the record, that viable alternatives are available for storage and treatment of this contaminated sludge. These alternatives are not only known to The Port of Authority and the EPA, but are contained in a study provided by Rutgers University in consort and contract with the Port of Authority. This study was done at the expense of the taxpayers! The dumping, however, will be paid for by those who consume the contaminated food.

The utilization of economic blackmail to secure approval for this "out of sight-out of mind" dumping is deplorable, when considering the potential health impact.

The attendees at the New Jersey State Council Convention of Vietnam Veterans of America do hereby resolve that we will continue to do everything within our power, including both legislative and legal recourse, to prevent the ocean dumping of dioxin-contaminated materials.

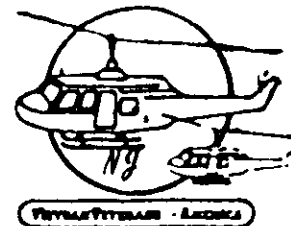
This press release is authorized and based on a unanimous resolution of the attendees of the state convention.

For additional information, contact: Mr. Gary Wall, President, New Jersey Vietnam Veterans of America State Council at



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February 10, 1993

GARY WALL
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1st-Vice-President

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Secretary

CARLTON B. RHODES
Treasurer

Newsday
Attention: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
DEAR EDITOR:
Reference: Viewpoint, February 4, 1993

The dumping of Dioxin tainted sludge from Newark Bay into the ocean is not the answer to the problem of what to do with this sludge. All of the monitoring, however well intentioned, will not stop this carcinogen and poison from contaminating the waters.


We do not oppose the dredging of the Harbor. The harbor must be dredged in order for our economy to grow. We do oppose the dumping of this tainted sludge into the ocean!!

This tainted sludge, caused by the Diamond Shamrock plant in Newark, should be returned to its origination point for them to properly dispose of it or store it until it can be disposed. The sludge can be dewatered and treated as solid waste. They should also pay all associated costs related to storage or disposal.

Recent newspaper articles always mention trace amounts of Dioxin. Trace amounts of Dioxin are what can kill you or cause birth defects in our children. Recent studies by the EPA's Reassessment of Dioxin relate to severe toxic effects due to small doses of Dioxin exposure.

This issue is an emotional one for Vietnam Veterans who have been exposed to Dioxin from the spraying of the defoliant Agent Orange. The Veterans Administration knows this. The Veterans Administration has, so far, awarded compensation to veterans exposed to Agent Orange for Non-Hodgkins Lymphomas and Soft-tissue Sarcomas (cancers directly caused by exposure to Agent Orange/Dioxin, for Chloracne (a severe skin disorder) and for Peripheral Neuropathy (a nerve disorder). Further studies are now being conducted by the National Academy of Sciences.

This issue is more than dredging the harbor. We cannot let the dumping of this contaminated sludge occur.


Michael Eckstein
Chairman, Agent Orange Committee
New Jersey State Council
Vietnam Veterans of America