



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL

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Paul
Dear Paul;

We are sending you this letter to inform you of the intolerable situation that is occurring in the New York - New Jersey Area.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is preparing to dredge the New York Harbor and has filed a permit to do so. The problem is that the sediment of the harbor contains Dioxin (TCDD) which by all indications is run off from the Diamond Alkali plant in New Jersey (which is an EPA Superfund Site). The permit calls for the sediment to be dumped in the Atlantic Ocean at a prime fishing ground known as the Mud Hole which is six miles off the New Jersey Shore.

As Vietnam Veterans we can not stand by and allow this ocean dumping to occur. We, as the most exposed segment of the population must not stand idly by and allow the introduction into the water and food chain of this most toxic of all substances. We recognize the need to dredge the harbor, but we also must live up to our responsibility to protect those who do not understand the consequences of this action.

The Port Authority's own study on "remediation of sediments" sponsored by Rutgers University and the Port Authority of New York/New Jersey calls for a "fine scale characterization of sediments as a prerequisite for managing dredge material in New York Harbor area."

We feel that not only must this study be done, but that EPA must insure that the Superfund cleanup of Diamond Alkali must include the Dioxin in the harbor BEFORE dredging can begin and that an alternative to ocean disposal must be found.

In Service To America,

John T. Greco
John T. Greco, President
VVA NY State Council

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NJ State Council
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