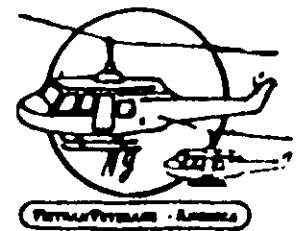




NEW JERSEY STATE COUNCIL
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Post Office Box #1236
Eatontown, NJ 07724



February 3, 1993

GARY WALL
President

✓ Representative Robert Torricelli

JACK BRONSON
1st-Vice-President

SANDY GILLIES
2nd-Vice-President

Representative Robert Franks

JAMES H. BURDGE, SR.
Secretary

Dear Representatives Torricelli and Franks,

CARLTON B. RHODES
Treasurer

Your position in favor of dumping Dioxin tainted sludge into the ocean six miles off Sandy Hook is disheartening. 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!!

The dumping of Dioxin tainted sludge 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 from contaminating the waters.

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. 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. Dioxin can kill. 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. Please reconsider your position.

Sincerely yours,

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