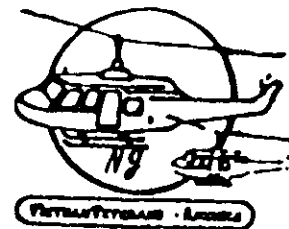




# NEW JERSEY STATE COUNCIL VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

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January 29, 1993

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New York Post  
Attention: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR  
DEAR EDITOR

Your recent editorial entitled Toxic environmentalism exposes your total ignorance of the Dioxin issue and its relationship to illnesses caused by exposure to this by-product of the defoliant Agent Orange. The Veterans Administration has 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). You should review the medical records of those Vietnam veterans who have died as a direct result of exposure to Dioxin. I also wonder how you could print that "a temporary acne-like skin condition" is the only effect of exposure to Dioxin.

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 (Agent Orange) plant in Newark, should be returned to its origination point for them to properly dispose of it or find a place to store it until it can be disposed. They should also pay all associated costs related to storage or disposal.

Dioxin's deadly relationship to Agent Orange is well known by the chemical companies. Why did they put up \$180 million dollars to settle the class action suit brought by Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange/Dioxin? I'm sure that you feel that those sums were paid because Dioxin is good for your health? Did you question why Diamond Shamrock recently settled a lawsuit by former employees exposed to Dioxin, prior to its going to a jury?

Your editorial is similar to the stance taken by the pulp and paper industry (Dioxin is a by-product of their processes) in their denial of Dioxin's deadly effects. As a substantial user of these paper products, do you have reason to support the paper manufacturers stance on this issue?

Regarding the EPA, why don't you call them and ask for the latest scientific information on the their Reassessment of Dioxin. You might find that the hoped for (by the pulp and paper industry) downgrading of Dioxin's deadly effects is actually turning the other way. The EPA has research that Dioxin is far deadlier, in small doses, than previously thought.

You should inform the public in a truthful manner, whether you agree or disagree with the opposing parties. Your one sided and biased view is distorting the truth.

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

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