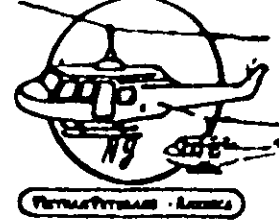




NEW JERSEY STATE COUNCIL VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Post Office Box #1236
Eatontown, NJ 07724



GARY WALL
President

By FAX

January 29, 1993

JACK BRONSON
1st-Vice-President

The Star-Ledger
Attention: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
DEAR EDITOR:

SANDY GILLIES
2nd-Vice-President

JAMES H. BURDGE, SR.
Secretary

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!!

CARLTON B. RHODES
Treasurer

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.

The 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. Some milestones in the battle against Dioxin exposure are as follows;

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.

Settlement in 1984 for \$180 million of a class action suit against the chemical companies who produced Agent Orange.

Out of court settlement for \$1 million by Diamond Shamrock for a lawsuit brought by former employees due to illnesses caused by exposure to Dioxin.

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

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

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