



Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.
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In Service To America

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Facsimile Transmission

To: Adm. Elmo Zumwalt

From: Paul S. Egan

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Comments: The coordinating council
may wish to weigh in



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In Service to America

February 4, 1993

Honorable Carol Browner, Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. EPA Headquarters
401 M St., SW (A-100)
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Browner:

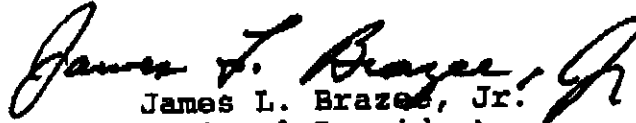
This letter is intended to draw your immediate attention to an ill designed action about to be consummated with the apparent approval of the local EPA regional office which will have enduring environmental consequences of unknown proportions and duration. As we understand it, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is preparing to dredge New York Harbor. The materials dredged, however, contain Dioxin (TCDD) resulting from run off from the Superfund Diamond Alkali plant site in New Jersey.

In filing for a permit to carry out dredging operations, the New York and New Jersey Port Authorities are intending to deposit contaminated materials in the Atlantic Ocean off the New Jersey coast in an area known as Mud Hole, a prime fishing ground. We respectfully ask that you intervene directly and immediately to bring a halt to these planned operations at least until the public health consequences of this planned action can be more fully assessed.

As an organization of veterans many of whom were heavily exposed to dioxin in Vietnam and elsewhere as a result of military use of Agent Orange and other toxic herbicides containing dioxin, we speak to this issue of New York/New Jersey Port Authority plans with obvious interest and considerable authority. Over the course of the last 12 years we have observed a deeply troubling trend in federal policy designed to mollify the interests of chemical and

other industries at the expense of public health and safety where the topic of dioxin toxicity levels is concerned. Your direct and immediate intercession on this matter as one of the first steps taken in your tenure as EPA Administrator would be seen as both a refreshing and bold departure from business as usual in environmental policy.

Sincerely,


James L. Brazee, Jr.
National President

cc: John Greco, New York State Council President
Gary Wall, New Jersey State Council President

Attachments

FROM : JT GRECO, VVA-NY STATE COUNCIL PHONE NO. : 516 825 1332

P02



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL

Paul Egan, Executive Director
Vietnam Veterans Of America
1224 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005-5183

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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



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

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John T. Greco

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At a meeting of the New Jersey State Council, Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. on Sunday, January 17, a motion was unanimously passed to join the fight against the ocean dumping of Dioxin contaminated sludge from Newark Bay. The motion gave the authority to the State Council to take any and all actions that they may deem necessary to prevent Dioxin contamination from affecting other generations.

The motion was immediately joined by the New York State Council, Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. who's Officers were in attendance at the meeting in New Jersey.

The President of the New York State Council, John Greco and the President of the New Jersey State Council, Gary Wall, said jointly: "The New York and New Jersey State Councils will not stand idly by while another generation is exposed to Dioxins. We, as Vietnam Veterans, know all too well the severe health impact and birth defects caused by exposure to Dioxin in Vietnam. There is little we can do to reverse our own exposure, but we can do everything in our power to prevent another generation from experiencing the adverse health effects caused by Dioxin in the food chain and water.

for the President of the New York State Council
Vietnam Veterans of America:

Deborah Pava
Public Affairs Officer

NY SC President
John T. Greco

Voice
Fax

NJ State President
Gary Wall