

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 02/25/02 EDO CONTROL: G20020074
DOC DT: 01/17/02
FINAL REPLY:

John C. Ameno, Jr.
Borough of Apollo

TO:

Chairman Meserve

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** PRI ** CRC NO: 02-0092

Chairman

DESC: ROUTING:

Health and Safety of Apollo Borough - Request for
Immediate Financial Assistance

Travers
Paperiello
Kane
Norry
Craig
Burns/Cyr
Miller, RI
Bell, OIG

DATE: 02/13/02

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:
NMSS Virgilio

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

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ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: John Ameno
AFFILIATION: PA
ADDRESSEE: Richard Meserve--Chairman
SUBJECT: Official request for the immediate financial assistance....

ACTION: Signature of Chairman
DISTRIBUTION: RF, SECY to Ack

LETTER DATE: 01/17/2002
ACKNOWLEDGED: No
SPECIAL HANDLING:

NOTES: Commission Correspondence
FILE LOCATION: Adams

DATE DUE: 02/27/2002 **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20020074



BOROUGH OF APOLLO

*405 North Pennsylvania Avenue
Apollo, PA 15613
Armstrong County*



*Mayor - 724-478-5210
Police - 724-478-3091*

*Secretary - 724-478-4201
FAX - 724-478-5211*

January 17, 2002

**CERTIFIED MAIL
URGENT**

**Honorable Richard Meserve
Chairman
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555**

Dear Mr. Meserve,

This letter is written as an Official Request for the immediate assistance on behalf of the health and safety of the citizens of Apollo Borough, as well as the immediate need for the 'resuscitation' of our economic structure. Apollo has been in harms way exclusively by the hands of the privately owned Special Nuclear Fuels Fabrication Facility known as Babcock & Wilcox and their predecessors, Arco and NUMEC, since 1957.

For approximately 45 years, Apollo Borough trustingly 'hosted' this industry which was located in the town's former steel manufacturing plant that was within 150 feet of residential homes, a state highway, a major river and businesses. The 'trust' was reinforced by the Federal and State agencies that were the 'governing overseers' for this facility. The agencies' main mission was to ensure that the facility operated within the laws and regulations for the protection of the people and the environment.

Over the decades, Apollo was constantly and consistently assured and reassured by these agencies and the facility that all of the 'safeguards' were in place and that 'everything was perfectly safe', even though the facility had emissions from 124 stack. Who were we to question the Federal and State agencies, for they had all the 'experts', resources and the wherewithal regarding this facility? In addition, the citizens of Apollo were told that our community was doing a service to the country

founded in 1816

during the Cold War Era. During those years, we were proud and hopeful for a continued growth in prosperity.

However, what has emerged over the past several years is 'irrefutable' documented evidence that this nuclear facility had a 'severe adverse affect on the surrounding environment'. Off site soil sampling confirmed radiological and chemical contamination to residential and business properties, the river and sewer lines. The limited radiological soil sampling 'fingerprinted' the very same facility that the citizens of Apollo were told to 'trust' by the Federal and State agencies as being '*perfectly safe*'.

Because of the dangerously high radiological and chemical contamination, the plant which housed this nuclear facility was demolished, along with a neighboring industrial site and an office building across the street. All had significant historical value, all comprised the only industrial property in Apollo Borough (approximately 20 acres), and all are now left as empty and unproductive in generating revenue which Apollo needs desperately. Property values have plummeted and homes and former local businesses are left vacant or being torn down. To add to the devastation this town has been enduring, is the strikingly high incidents of cancers, tumors, birth defects and neurological diseases of unknown etiology which has also been documented.

The pride this community once had has been reduced to apathy and despair, and the hope for prosperity is as vacant as the property that was once the industrial heartbeat of Apollo.

Understandably, Apollo isn't as trusting as it once was. The 'reassurances' fell seriously short of the required laws and regulations, and promises have been viewed as being 'empty rhetoric'.

Our community is essentially an "*environmental and economic disaster*" that is in need of immediate emergency funding in an expeditious manner. Our very existence and our future as a functioning community depends upon immediate and sizable action. Conservatively speaking, the health and economic problems here are huge.

A small sampling of areas of immediate need are:

- Medical monitoring of the residents
- Core sampling of the town to at least 15 feet prior to a mandated sewer project
- Assessment and testing of current sewer system
- Funding for community revitalization
- Funding and recruitment of industrial businesses
- Disaster relief
- Funding and testing of our river

Help us to resurrect from the ashes and from the problems and stigma that are directly attributable to the nuclear industry that was once here. I would hope that a response to this request will be forthcoming within 10 days of receipt given its nature and urgency.

Should you need any further information or documentation, I may be reached at my residence number: (724) 478-1386 or the Apollo Borough Office: (724) 478-4201.

On behalf of the citizens of Apollo Borough, thank you for your time and expedience in addressing our issues.

Sincerely,



John C. Ameno, Jr.

President

Apollo Borough Council

cc: Secretary Christie Whitman
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**Director
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**Honorable Mark Schweiker, Governor
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**Honorable John P. Murtha
United States Congressman 12th District
The United States House of Representatives
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**Honorable Arlen Specter
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Washington, D.C. 20510**

**Inspector General
U. S. Department of Health and Human Services
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Washington, D.C. 20201**

**Inspector General
U. S. Department of Labor
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**Joseph Chnupa, Assistant South West Regional Director
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**Gayle A. Norton, Secretary
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**Honorable Don C. White
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Harrisburg, PA 17120-3041**

**Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
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**Senator Leonard Bodack
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
District 38
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Harrisburg, PA 17120**

**Commission James Scahill
Armstrong County Commissioner
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**Commissioner Homer Crytzer
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**Commissioner Jack Dunmire
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