



State of New Jersey

Christine Todd Whitman
Governor

Department of Environmental Protection
CN 402
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402

Robert C. Shinn, Jr.
Commissioner
Tel # (609) 292-2885
Fax # (609) 292-7695

July 15, 1996

Honorable Bill Bradley
United States Senator
One Newark Center, 16th Floor
Newark, New Jersey 07102-5297

Attention: Laurel Mackin

Re: North American Philips Lighting Company (Westinghouse Electric Corporation)
Bloomfield Twp., Essex County
ISRA Case #86070

Dear Senator Bradley:

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) has received your above referenced request for information on behalf of W.E. C.A.R.E. The Department, under the authority of the Industrial Site Recovery Act (ISRA), has been overseeing Westinghouse's investigation/remediation of the site with respect to soil and ground water contamination since operations at the facility ceased in 1986. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is the lead agency overseeing the radiological remediation at the Westinghouse Site.

Representatives of the Department have attended several public meetings and have spoken with various citizens of Bloomfield Township, during which the Department detailed the status of the investigation/remediation and the future remediation plans for the facility. Ms. Joanne Lucarelli and Ms. Carolyn R. Vadala have been in attendance and have spoken to Department representatives on the issues. The Department has outlined the scope of the ongoing investigation, environmental problems and the NJDEP's authority in this matter. Although the investigation is ongoing, extensive data has been collected. Due to the complexity of the issues and data related to this case, the Department can not address all the specifics in a meeting or in this letter. The Department has offered an open invitation to all interested parties to review the extensive case files, including the contaminant levels and location, that are part of the public record. The case file would have the detailed information sought. The case file can be reviewed by scheduling an appointment with the Site Remediation Program's file custodian at (609) 633-1480.

Honorable Bill Bradley
July 15, 1996
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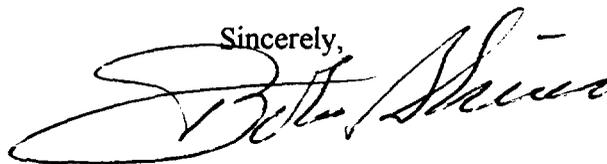
The Department is currently reviewing a Soil Remedial Investigation Report submitted by Westinghouse on June 21, 1996. Westinghouse will also be submitting a comprehensive ground water remedial investigation report by July 31, 1996. The Department is also waiting to receive a copy of the Final Radiological Site Survey that Westinghouse will be submitting to the NRC. Regarding the allegations of "airing" thorium, the NJDEP has referred this issue to the NRC for a response.

Additionally, extensive building demolition has taken place at the facility and Westinghouse will be razing additional buildings in the future. The demolition of the buildings for the purpose of future site development is not under the purview of the Industrial Site Recovery Act.

Westinghouse has preliminarily selected non-residential goals for the soil remediation of the Westinghouse Site. This selected remedy by the property owner is within State guidelines and laws. As part of this remedy, controls will have to be emplaced in accordance with statutory requirements. It is important to note that regardless of whether residential or non-residential goals are selected for the Westinghouse Site, the surrounding population is required to be protected to the most stringent standards. The ground water beneath the site is known to be contaminated with volatile organic contaminants and the radiological contamination is currently being assessed as noted above. Westinghouse has constructed a soil vapor extraction system for the volatile organics and is operating a ground water pump and treat system to control this pollution. Although the goals required by the NJDEP for the ground water remedy will be drinking water standards, ground water in the area is not utilized for drinking water purposes. All remedies approved by the NJDEP will be protective of human health and the environment.

If you have any questions please call Richard Gimello, Assistant Commissioner of the Site Remediation Program, at (609) 292-1250.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Shinn, Jr.
Commissioner

c: Richard Proctor, Bloomfield Twp. Health Officer
Len Fishman, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Health
David Hall, Westinghouse Electric Corporation
Mark Roberts, NRC

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BILL BRADLEY
NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEES
FINANCE
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
AGING



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3001

June 14, 1996

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TO:

Robert C. Shinn, Jr.

NJ Department of Environmental Protection
401 E. State Street, 7th Floor East Wing
CN 402
Trenton, NJ 08625

RE: Clean Up Initiatives in Bloomfield

I forward the attached for your consideration and would appreciate receiving information in regard to this inquiry as soon as possible. Please direct your correspondence to Laurel Mackin of my staff. She can now be reached in my Newark office at One Newark Center, 16th Floor. The zip code is 07102-5297.

Thank you very much for your time and assistance in this matter, and I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

Bill Bradley
United States Senator

BB/lmm

W.E. C.A.R.E.
157 La France Avenue
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

May 22, 1996

The Honorable Senator Frank Lautenberg
The Honorable Senator William Bradley ✓
Gateway I
Newark, NJ 07101

RE: Request for Investigation

Dear Senator Lautenberg,

We care is committed to obtaining a clean, healthy environment in our community and for our children's future. We have a major issue on our hands and we beg for your help.

We have collected information on the industrial areas near our homes in Bloomfield and East Orange, Essex County, New Jersey. Our concerns involve :

- Westinghouse Electric Corporation,
- Their work involving the refining of Uranium for the Manhattan Project,
- Their production of lamps and electrical works, and finally
- The thoroughness of the clean up of this contaminated site & adjacent lands.

The clean up, or 'decommissioning' as they say, started in 1986 but the town's people were never notified on the dangers imposed upon them. This letter will highlight facts and incidents in order for you to understand the extent of our concerns and in the hope that you will help and guide us by organizing the vast resources at your disposal.

Our immediate questions are: What is on this site, what will remain, how has this operation affected our health, & how can we protect people in the future?

We have asked the State of NJ, the NJDEP, the NRC, Westinghouse, and our town officials for specific information regarding the extent of the contaminants on this site. We have come away empty handed except for the information we ourselves have uncovered and what little information the NJDEP can give us over the phone. The NJDEP case managers have been helpful; however, when we expected specific information from the participants mentioned above, we receive 'public relations' jargon but never specifics. For example, In April of 1995 Westinghouse's representative, Mr. Bo Bouman gave us the same speech he gave to the town in 1991- but nothing about the contamination levels as we expected .

The NJDEP informed us of the following contaminants on this site (not all are mentioned here):
Radium, Thorium, Uranium, Volatile organics, PCB's, Asbestos.
Water is contaminated at least 200 feet down.

We asked that the area be covered. It was tarped for about 1 month. Now, the overturned ground and broken concrete is exposed. During one Bloomfield Health Department meeting, we asked about the huge open pits in a haphazardly tarped area. The response was the open pits were for 'airing the Thorium'. *Are you as frightened as we are?*

Senator, your office was previously involved in this situation, according to a letter dated 5/13/1986 from the NJ Dept of Health to a Mr. Samuel Forlenza of Bloomfield. It involved 'Cancer Clusters'. We would like to know the outcome of your inquiry. We know that in 1979, the State of New Jersey - Dept of Health confirmed that there were 'statistically significant' incidences of childhood cancers in the 'Ampere area' and the State recommended that the area be watched. A subsequent study (1991) from the NJ Dept of Health said the number of cancers in our area were in normal range; however the State lumped all cancer cases together per the Township of Bloomfield's request. This was a meaningless idea of 'watching our area' (see attachment 2.).

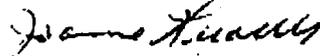
In light of the fact that our children were already experiencing problems related to environmental contaminants, the extent of the hazards involving this site while the 'decommissioning' is happening poses additional, unwarranted exposure. The lack of information and caution from Westinghouse and our Town is a blatant disregard of the welfare and safety of our neighbors and our children. This is why we are writing to you. You are our final hope. It appears that because this is about the 'Westinghouse Corporation' and because it was the 'Federal Government' who commissioned them, then they have the right to contaminate us and our land and we have no rights for finding out exactly what went on there and what risks are involved. Will you help us?

Our concern is for future generations of human beings. Westinghouse will leave its contamination in the ground and cover it with cement. This land was once farm land. It can never ever be farmed again. Our water was also affected. We can never use the water either. Our children are born with cancers and more are developing cancers. What can you do for us? What can we do for you to help you in this matter?

We are willing to continue devoting endless hours. Will you, who have power and information, be willing to help? We would like to meet with you to discuss our vast findings and to glean knowledge of how the government can help. We guess it would be proper to request, under the Freedom of Information Act, all there is to know about this industrial complex. For what do we ask? Please call us or write to the above address. We will be waiting and hoping.

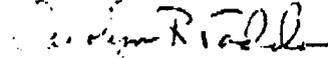
Respectfully and Sincerely Submitted on behalf of WECARE,

Mrs. Joanne Lucarelli



201 429-8780

Ms. Carolyn R. Vadala



201 246-1259

excl.

cc: NJ Sen. J. Bubba

C:wecare-laughtenb.wpd (lou)