

Battelle Permit Opposition Committee
1066 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43201

December 28, 1993

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region III Office
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Dear Federal Officials:

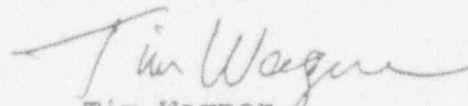
The undersigned is an authorized representative of the Battelle Permit Opposition Committee, an organization of representatives of neighborhoods in the vicinity of the Battelle Memorial Institute's King Avenue Facility in Columbus, Ohio. An employee of that facility has recently made available to us a copy of the enclosed July, 1992, audit of the decontamination and decommissioning program at the Battelle facility. A review of this audit has left us shocked at what appears to be a facility out of control in its handling of radioactive waste materials. There are 193 separate deficiencies noted, many of which are institutional in nature.

We are asking you to investigate the findings of this audit and to take appropriate enforcement action to assure that the Battelle facility is operated in compliance with all federal requirements for radioactive materials handling.

In addition to raising serious questions about the potential threat to our neighborhoods through Battelle's operations, I add that we are also concerned about what this audit demonstrates as to the level of oversight that this facility is receiving. When this audit was released publicly, Battelle's response was that it had passed its NRC inspections. This has left the entire City of Columbus wondering how meaningful those inspections are in light of the serious short-comings disclosed in audit.

This audit comes at an especially difficult time in our community as Battelle is asking for our support on its proposal to significantly expand its mixed waste storage facility in our neighborhoods. Without a serious examination by your office into the contents of this audit, we do not see how we can possibly support an escalation of the risks which Battelle's audit shows are already present at the existing facility. Please, expedite your review of this serious situation for our neighborhoods and for our families.

Sincerely,


Tim Wagner
614-291-3337