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May 20, 1994

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STEVEN D. BELL

## VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Dr. Ivan Selin, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint, North - 16G15
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Remediation of Bert Avenue and Harvard Avenue Sites,

Newburgh Heights and Cuyahoga Heights, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Selin:

For the past three years, we have served as legal counsel to the current and certain former residents of the neighborhood which lies between the Bert Avenue Landfill Site in Newburgh Heights, Ohio, and the McGean-Rohco, Inc. factory (referred to as the "Harvard Avenue Site") in Cuyahoga Heights, Ohio. As you are aware, certain wastes containing depleted uranium used in a manufacturing process at the factory Site were disposed of at the Landfill Site nearly twenty years ago.

In 1991, a class-action lawsuit was filed on behalf of the neighborhood residents in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. This lawsuit was intended to allow the residents to meaningfully participate in the plans for the remediation of the Bert Avenue and Harvard Avenue Sites, and to provide some monetary compensation for the current and former residents of the area.

In February, 1994, a tentative settlement of the lawsuit was reached between defendants Chemetron Corporation and McGean-Rohco, Inc. and the plaintiff residents. This proposed settlement has now been endorsed and approved by an overwhelming 99.3% of the current and former residents of the neighborhood.

The litigation between the neighborhood residents and the companies has been satisfactorily resolved, and the neighborhood residents are now anxious to have Chemetron Corporation move forward with the immediate remediation of the Harvard Avenue and Bert Avenue Sites.

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We have carefully reviewed all of the health and safety data which relates to the Sites. This data includes reports generated by public agencies (such as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Ohio Department of Health), as well as those which have been compiled by various health professionals retained by the plaintiffs and the defendants in the Federal Court litigation. After reviewing this information, we are satisfied that the Sites, once remediated in accordance with Chemetron's remediation plans, will pose no threat to the health and welfare of the residents whom we have represented in the litigation. We have also carefully reviewed Chemetron's remediation plans for the Bert Avenue and Harvard Avenue Sites with our clients. At the same time, we have also discussed the proposed remediation of these Sites with representatives of Chemetron Corporation and McGean-Rohco, Inc.

As a result of our review of the relevant health and safety data, and further as a result of our review of Chemetron's remediation plans for the Bert Avenue and Harvard Avenue Sites, the neighborhood residents now fully and unequivocally support Chemetron Corporation's plans for the on-Site disposal of the depleted uranium and other solid wastes at the Bert Avenue Landfill Site as well as its remediation plans for the Harvard Avenue Site.

The dispute over the disposal of low-level radioactive wastes in Newburgh Heights has been an issue which has been emotionally draining to the neighborhood residents for nearly two decades. In the past few months, tremendous progress has been made towards implementation of a final remedy for the Sites. In the spirit of cooperation which has finally made our agreements possible, we have committed to immediately take all reasonable steps to expedite the process for obtaining regulatory approval for Chemetron's plans for remediation of the Sites. My clients firmly believe that the rapid approval of Chemetron's plans is in their individual and collective best interest, and they ask that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to approve Chemeton's remediations plans for the Sites at the earliest possible time.

We would be pleased to meet with you to discuss our support for Chemetron's remediation plans. In the interim, please feel free to call with any questions you may have.

Very truly yours,

Steven D. Bell