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WTI [Waste Technologies Industries]: WTI Letters

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December 28, 1992

The Honorable Albert Gore, Jr.
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20150

Fax# (202)-228-2611

Re: WTI Hazardous Waste Incineration Plant, E. Liverpool, Ohio

Dear Senator Gore,

I wish to express my concern and strong opposition to your recent call for a congressional investigation of the WTI plant in Ohio.

For the past several years WTI's progress has been scrutinized by many professional organizations including the USEPA and the United States Congress; none of which have shown any reason for concern regarding a possible safety, health or environmental hazard resulting from the operation of this facility. I believe you have been "Blind-sided" by a group of outspoken radicals who pay little or no attention to fact and probably couldn't point out East Liverpool, Ohio on a map if they tried. If you would look at the facts regarding this plant, you would surely have to change your position on this matter.

Our great nation is in need of strong yet intelligent leadership based on educated reasoning and compassion for all people. For years our government has placed too much value on land-filling as a solution to the massive production of waste in this country. As a result, our water table is progressively being poisoned and entire communities have been displaced. We cannot continue to destroy our environment with "Quick-Fix" solutions to problems that affect the entire earth. We must control the waste problem by a well thought out program of recycling, incineration, land-filling and educating the public as to how we can reduce our output of waste.

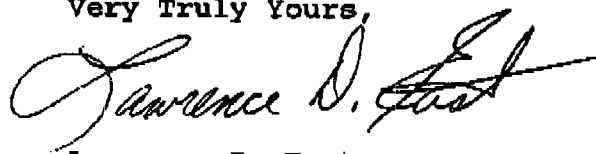
The technology from whence WTI came is by no means new or untried. It has been developed over a long period of time in Europe because the population to land ratio facilitated the need for it. It is a technology which has been vastly improved and made safe for the public. The same company that designed WTI has plants operating throughout the world and not once has there been a report of populations being threatened by their operation.

It is time for our government to assume the responsibility of educating itself and the public about real solutions to our waste problem rather than hiding behind an "out of sight-out of mind" philosophy that renders a temporary fix. Most Americans assume incineration is a huge metal tank billowing thick black smoke into the atmosphere. I remember seeing this as a child and I think this is a misconception that has not been addressed properly.

The Honorable Albert Gore, Jr.
December 28, 1992
Page Two

In conclusion, WTI and other plants like it will be a big part of our country's future in providing a livelihood for many thousands of people as well as helping to solve one of our greatest challenges of this and the 21st century. Whether or not Greenpeace, the Sierra Club and other such organizations accept this fact, be it known that WTI and other plants like it will achieve its goals through legal means and with great concern for the earth and it's people, unlike themselves.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lawrence D. East". The signature is fluid and extends to the right with a long horizontal stroke.

Lawrence D. East



TO: DISTRIBUTION

FROM: Julia Bircher, WTI Public Relations

DATE: 12/28/92

RE: WTI DAILY CLIPS

PAGES: 2 (INCLUDES COVER SHEET)

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* Frank Tirrell, BASF	FAX: (201) 397-4525
* Matthias Hensel, BASF	FAX: (201) 299-9774
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* Michael Dawson	FAX: (614) 466-9354
* Patricia Payne	FAX: (614) 466-8898
* Suzanne Kircos, U.S. EPA	FAX: (312) 353-1155
* Shelby Thurman-Jackson, Ohio EPA	FAX: (614) 644-2329
* Maureen McFalls, CHMR	FAX: (412) 826-5552
* Bob Reincke, CWM	FAX: (708) 572-1891
* Raymond Wayne, EPIC	FAX: (509) 754-0506
* Kim Harris, Congressman Traficant	FAX: (202) 225-3719
* Pam McElwee, Senator Gore's office	FAX: (202) 228-2611
* Barry Direnfeld, Swidler & Berlin	FAX: (202) 944-4296

1250 Saint George Street, P. O. Box 1026, East Liverpool, Ohio 43920-6026
Telephone (216) 385-7337

WHEELING INTELLIGENCER
Wheeling, W.Va.
December 28, 1992

Family Dump

Vice President-elect Al Gore is best known for his views on the environment and his penchant for regulation. But this may be yet another case of a politician telling America, "Do as we say, not as we do."

It seems the "family farm" where Gore claims to have learned an appreciation of the environment is the site of an open dump. The dump is replete with "old pesticide containers, aerosol cans, old tires, used filters with waste oil" and other undesirable items, reports the Land Rights News Letter.

Where's the Superfund team when you need it?

Not incidentally, Gore had this to say in his environmental scare-tract, "Earth in the Balance": "Having relied for too long on the old strategy of 'out of sight, out of mind' we are now running out of ways to dispose of our waste in a manner that keeps it either out of sight or mind."

EVENING REVIEW
East Liverpool, OH
December 26, 1992

What's progress?

Dear Editor:

I have been reading in the newspaper so much about progress in Columbiana County. Is progress building a waste incinerator next to a school and residential area?

Is progress bringing sludge and debris from all over the country to dump in our backyards without knowing the effects that this will have on the air we breathe or our groundwater?

And finally, is progress taking homes and productive farmland for a federal prison? The government already owns land on which this facility could be constructed without adding a burden to the residents of Columbiana County. It seems to me that Columbiana County has become a dumping ground for everything that no one else wants.

When our officials say we doth protest too much, I say it is our lives that depend on it! Maybe the so-called progressive people in this community should define what they mean by progress!

Doris Wolford
Rogers, Ohio

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AM-TN--Seivers,120<
Democratic Chairman Leaving Post<
jmejmeris<

PRESS RETURN TO CONTINUE OR ENTER A REQUEST.

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PM-NY--Incinerator,Bjt,222<

~~Judge Says No More Hearings Needed On Brooklyn Incinerator~~

NEW YORK (AP) A state judge has ruled the Department of Environmental Conservation won't have to hold any more hearings before granting permits for the proposed Brooklyn Navy Yard trash incinerator.

Judge Robert P. O'Connor, an administrative judge for the DEC, ruled in a decision released Thursday that none of the points raised by community leaders and residents opposed to the incinerator were important enough to delay the plant.

"I do not find their arguments to be meritorious," he said, giving the opponents until Jan. 15 to appeal his decision.

The decision is a setback for opponents of the \$450 million plant.

If an appeal is denied, the state DEC could grant the city the permits needed to build the plant in the Williamsburg neighborhood of Brooklyn.

Isaac Abraham, the leader of the Federation Tenants Council of Williamsburg, said the coalition against the incinerator will appeal but that the judge gave them little time to prepare their case.

PRESS RETURN TO CONTINUE OR ENTER A REQUEST.

"To allow those who live within rock-throwing distance from the Brooklyn Navy Yard only until Jan. 15 to appeal is a New Year's joke," Abraham said in a statement released Friday.

"However, this incinerator still requires federal permits before construction can actually begin and we anticipate

~~Vice President-elect Al Gore~~ to research more thoroughly into this plant," he said.

73 AP 12-25-92 16:56 EST 27 Lines. Copyright 1992. All rights reserved.
AM-NY--Incinerator,220<

Judge Says No More Hearings Needed On Brooklyn Incinerator

NEW YORK (AP) In a defeat for opponents of the proposed Brooklyn Navy Yard trash incinerator, a judge ruled that the state Department of Environmental Conservation does not need to hold any more hearings before granting permits for the \$450 million plant.

Judge Robert P. O'Connor, an administrative judge for the DEC, ruled in a decision released Thursday that none of the points raised by community leaders and residents opposed to the incinerator were important enough to delay the plant.

"I do not find their arguments to be meritorious," he said,

PRESS RETURN TO CONTINUE OR ENTER A REQUEST.

This came today!



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
CHARLESTON 25305

MARIO J. PALUMBO
ATTORNEY GENERAL

RICHARD L. GOTTLIEB
CHIEF DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 25, 1992

(304) 348-2021
FAX 348-0140

The Honorable Al Gore
United States Senate
393 Senate Russell Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gore:

Ashley Schannauer, the Assistant City Solicitor for the City of Pittsburgh, and I would like to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss the Waste Technologies Industries (WTI) hazardous waste incinerator in East Liverpool, Ohio. Mr. Schannauer and I have been fighting WTI in court and, in my opinion, the major problem has been the failure of the U.S. EPA to protect the public health. Accordingly, I would appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

I will be in Washington, D.C., the week of December 7, 1992. If that week is not convenient for you, please let us know when you are available and Ashley and I will adjust our schedules accordingly. I realize that you are quite busy, and I hope you can see us. The health and safety of a large number of people in Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia are at stake.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mario J. Palumbo".

MARIO J. PALUMBO
ATTORNEY GENERAL

MJP/jy

cc: Ashley Schannauer, Esq.
AGOEX



United States
General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

Office of Congressional Relations

December 9, 1992

The Honorable Albert Gore
United States Senate

Dear Senator Gore:

We have received your letter of December 7, 1992, jointly signed by several of your colleagues, asking the General Accounting Office to investigate the process by which the Environmental Protection Agency approved the construction and initial stages of operation of the WTI incinerator plant in East Liverpool, Ohio.

We have forwarded your letter to our Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division. Staff from that Division will contact your office to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vincent Griffith".

T. Vincent Griffith
Legislative Attorney

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GREENPEACE

Greenpeace • 1436 U Street NW • Washington DC 20009 • Tel (202) 462-1177
Tlx 89-2359 • Fax (202) 462-4507

TRI - STATE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tuesday, December 15, 1992

CONTACT: Rev. Dr. John Cheetham, LIVE, 304-387-0786
Debbie Williams, Save Our County, 216-424-1130
Scott Sederstrom, Greenpeace, 304-387-1007

TRI-STATE RESIDENTS PRESENT CLINTON/GORE WITH PETITIONS

OVER 20,000 SIGNATURES GATHERED OPPOSING WTI

OPPONENTS JAILED IN BID TO PROTECT CHILDREN

EAST LIVERPOOL, OH - LITTLE ROCK, AK -- In the midst of the on-going series of trials and hearings for scores of local residents, two representatives of the Tri-State Environmental Council will be in Little Rock, Arkansas, today to deliver over 20,000 signatures to President-Elect Bill Clinton and Vice President-Elect Al Gore. The signatures and a letter will be delivered by Becky Tobin of East Liverpool, Ohio, and Beth Knapp of Beaver, Pennsylvania, at a press conference held at 11:30 p.m. outside of the Robinson Auditorium on Markham Street in Little Rock where Clinton and Gore are scheduled to attend an environmental meeting, along with the newly named Administrator of the U.S. EPA, Carol Browner.

Meanwhile, in East Liverpool, Ohio, a press conference will be held outside the East Liverpool City Hall/Court House to announce the delivery of petitions as well as plans for a parade scheduled for January 17, 1992, to thank the Clinton/Gore Administration for intervening in the 12 year battle to stop the WTI incinerator. On December 7, 1992, Al Gore, following through with a campaign promise, called for a General Accounting Office investigation to answer questions surrounding the WTI facility.

Gore stated in a news release that issues of safety, legality of the federal permit, ownership of the corporation involved, health effects of lead and mercury emissions, construction standards, and facility location have been "consistently downplayed or ignored by the Environmental Protection Agency" and that the Clinton/Gore Administration "will not issue the permit needed to allow test burns at the incinerator."

-more-

The press conference in East Liverpool, Ohio, will be held during the lunch recess of the trials which are ongoing in the City's Municipal Court. The jury trials of eight grandparents and eleven parents began on Monday, December 14. The nineteen were arrested at the WTI facility during the week of November 16, 1992, along with over 100 other opponents.

All those arrested and some bystanders are also facing civil charges. Sixteen Ohio Valley residents began serving jail sentences ordered by Judge Jenkins of Columbiana County Common Pleas Court who had issued an injunction for any protests at the site. More of the opponents will be facing jail time and fines during the Christmas Holidays.

The petitions delivered to Clinton/Gore Administration were sponsored by the following Ohio Valley organizations:

Save Our County
Let's Improve Valley Environment
Tri-State Environmental Council
Pittsburgh Against Toxic Incineration
Regional Environmental Alliance

THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS HAVE PASSED RESOLUTIONS OPPOSING WTI:

State of West Virginia Legislature
Ohio State Medical Association
United Automobile, Aerospace, Agricultural Implement Workers of America, Local 1714, Lordstown, Ohio
American Federation of Teachers
Ohio Environmental Council
Ohio Citizen Action
Pittsburgh City Council
City of Steubenville, Ohio
Hancock County Farm Bureau, West Virginia
United Steelworkers of America, District 23, Local 1190, Steubenville, Ohio
Ohio Nurses Association, District Three
Board of Commissioners of Beaver County, Pennsylvania
Communications Workers of America, Local 4300, Youngstown, Ohio
Fairview Grange, #446, New Manchester, West Virginia
Jefferson County Medical Society
Ohio State Medical Association
Alleghany County Board of Commissioners, Pennsylvania
City Council of Toronto, Ohio
Wintersville City Council, Ohio
United Hancock County Fire Fighters Association, West Virginia
City of New Cumberland, West Virginia
Hancock County Sheriff's Advisory Committee, West Virginia
City of Weirton, West Virginia

-more-

Council of Borough of Ohioville, Pennsylvania
City of Chester, West Virginia
City of Wheeling, West Virginia
Hancock County Commission, West Virginia
Hancock County Board of Education, West Virginia
Garden Club of Ohio, Inc.
West Virginia Environmental Council
Sierra Club Ohio Chapter
The Allegheny Group of the Sierra Club, Pennsylvania
The Group Against Smog & Pollution, Ohio

LETTER TO PRESIDENT-ELECT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT AL GORE
FOLLOWS THIS PRESS RELEASE.

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T R I - S T A T E E N V I R O N M E N T A L C O U N C I L

December 15, 1992

Dear President-Elect Clinton and Vice President-Elect Gore:

The organizations from the Ohio Valley listed below wish to express our sincere appreciation and thanks for your request for a full investigation by the General Accounting Office (GAO) into the Waste Technologies Industries (WTI) hazardous waste incinerator in East Liverpool, Ohio. As you said in your statement, "the legality of the federal permit, ownership of the corporation involved, health effects of lead and mercury emissions, construction standards, and facility location have consistently been downplayed or ignored by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)." We could not agree more.

For twelve years we, the residents of Ohio, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania have been battling the proposal, construction, and possible operation of this Swiss owned facility. As you know, the incinerator is located on the Ohio River, 1,100 feet from an elementary school. This issue has become a national focal point of a grass roots movement aimed at halting the expansion of incinerators and the waste that fuels them.

In July an EPA Appeals Board acknowledged irregularities in the EPA's permitting process of this incinerator but cleared the way for a test burn of waste at the facility. The week before your announcement of a GAO investigation, WTI announced that they were postponing the completion of their shake down burn until January due to stack fan problems. But upon learning of the GAO investigation, they revised their plans and said they would resume the shake down burn this week.

With the poor history of compliance at hazardous waste incinerators and outstanding questions regarding the permitting process at the WTI facility, a GAO study is a good first step in documenting the health and safety threats posed by this facility if it should go on line.

There are also very serious questions about the siting of the WTI facility. It is on a flood plain of the Ohio River, over two aquifers which are sources of water for millions of households, its proximity to an elementary school and college, 300 feet from the nearest home, in a valley where air inversions (occur two out of every three days) and valley stagnation can trap toxic emissions. The stack barely clears the rooftops of many homes up hill from the facility.

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12/15/92

While Ohio's Governor George Voinovich has proposed a moratorium on all new hazardous waste incinerators in the state, he has exempted the WTI facility in East Liverpool from this proposal. Yet the Governor's own press release protests the fact that Ohio already has 20 percent of the nation's capacity for hazardous waste incineration and he does not want more out of state waste brought in. WTI's incinerator, with the largest capacity in the world on the border of West Virginia and Pennsylvania, would attract huge amounts of new waste from other states.

The Attorney General of West Virginia is seeking a permanent injunction against the operation of the WTI facility and the Ohio Attorney General is investigating the ownership of the facility. Yet, the EPA, in spite of promises of a "smooth transition" is still allowing the facility to proceed toward a test burn. This is clearly a slap in the face to the residents of the Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania tri-State area and democracy everywhere.

We look forward to working with your Administration on this.

Sincerely,

Terri Swearingen
Tri-State Environmental Council

Alonzo Spencer
Save Our County

Lisa Tychonevich
Families Against Toxic Emissions

Carl Uccellini
Regional Environmental Alliance

Scott Sikora
Steubenville/Weirton Against Incineration

Dorothy Uccellini
Save Our Valley

Connie Stein
SOS

Gabriel Amersbach
Pittsburgh Against Toxic Incineration

Jill Bradley

H.O.P.E.

Sherrie Wright

Let's Improve Valley Environment

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORT GAO INVESTIGATION OF WTI
"AS GOOD FIRST STEP"

December 16, 1992

Dear President-Elect Clinton and Vice President-Elect Gore:

The sixteen national organizations listed below wish to express our sincere appreciation and thanks for your request for a full investigation by the General Accounting Office (GAO) into the Waste Technologies Industries (WTI) hazardous waste incinerator in East Liverpool, Ohio. As you said in your statement, "the legality of the federal permit, ownership of the corporation involved, health effects of lead and mercury emissions, construction standards, and facility location have consistently been downplayed or ignored by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)." We could not agree more.

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Governor's own press release protests the fact that Ohio already has 20 percent of the nation's capacity for hazardous waste incineration and he does not want more out of state waste brought in. WTI's incinerator, with the largest capacity in the world on the border of West Virginia and Pennsylvania, would attract huge amounts of new waste from other states.

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We look forward to working with your Administration on this and other related issues.

Sincerely,

Phil Clapp/Ken Brown
Clean Water Action

Carl Casebolt
National Council of Churches

Lisa Collaton
Environmental Action

Rhona Kisch
Natural Resources Defense Council

Nikki Roy
Environmental Defense Fund

Daniel J. Weiss
Sierra Club

Rick Hind
Greenpeace

Carolyn Hartmann
U.S. Public Interest Research Group

Marchant Wentworth
Izaak Walton League of America

Will Collette
Western Organization of Resource
Councils

Ross Bluestein
National Toxics Campaign

Victor McMahan
Friends of the Earth

Lois Gibbs
Citizens Clearing House
for Hazardous Waste

Jay Feldman
National Coalition Against
the Misuse of Pesticides

Richard Regan
Center for Policy
Alternatives

Mick Harrison
Government Accountability Project

Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice

P.O. Box 7399 • Albuquerque, New Mexico 87194 • (505) 242-0416 • FAX (505) 242-5609

Coordinating Council

Co-Chairs

Robin Cannon
Los Angeles, CA
Richard Moore
Albuquerque, NM
Odessa Ramirez
Carson City, NV
Rubén Solís
San Antonio, TX

* * * FAX MEMORANDUM * * * FAX MEMORANDUM * * *

December 15, 1992

Members

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Tucson
Mike Flores
Sells
Francisco Navaretti
Phoenix
Carletta Tilousi
Havasupai Nation

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Los Angeles, CA

Mexico:

Maurillio Sánchez
Pachuca
Tijuana

Vice-President-Elect Gore

U.S. Senate

393 Russell Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510-4202

Dear Vice-President-Elect Gore:

The Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice is a multi-issue, multi-racial coalition of activists, grassroots and community organizations, native nations, trade unions and student groups fighting environmental and economic injustice in six southwestern states and Mexico.

The Southwest Network opposes the startup of the Waste Technologies Industries toxic incinerator in East Liverpool, Ohio. As activists and community leaders in the grassroots environmental justice movement for the last two decades, we have seen this kind of development at the unacceptable cost of community suffering and environmental degradation.

The Southwest Network also supports your decision and promise to help stop this incinerator, and hopes that you will continue in your efforts in this direction.

Please contact our regional office in Albuquerque, New Mexico, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Richard Moore
Coordinator