UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

624 NINTH STREET, NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20425

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RECEIVED 6/30/2004

COMPLAINT REFERRAL

June 23, 2004

US Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Civil Rights
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, Room 2540
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Madam / Sir:

This office has received the enclosed complaint(s) from:

[redacted]

We have informed the complainant that we have referred the matter to your agency. Please correspond directly with the complainant, and notify us in writing as to all actions taken concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

Terri Brooks

TERRI A. DICKERSON
Assistant Staff Director
of Civil Rights Evaluation

Enclosures

Title VI

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing concerning the discrimination practices of the following entities in the State of Michigan which have received apparently over $319,119,458 in funds over the past three years :

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Director Steven Chester
P.O. Box 30473
Lansing, MI 48909-7973
Phone: (517)373-7917
Fax: (517)241-7401

Geological and Land Management Division (GLM)
Chief: Harold R. Fitch
P.O. Box 30458
Lansing, MI 48909-7756
Phone: (517) 241-1515
Fax: (517) 241-1601

Waste and Hazardous Materials Division (WHM)
Chief: George Bruchmann
P.O. Box 30241
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: (517) 335-2690
Fax: (517) 373-4797

Environmental Science and Services Division (ESS)
ESS Guide
Chief: Amy Butler
P.O. Box 30457
Lansing, MI 48909-7957
Phone: (517) 241-0490
Fax: (517) 241-0858

This department and its representatives here listed have been 'stonewalling' local opposition to the High Pressure Injection Toxic Waste Well that has been built in Romulus, Michigan.

Using their positions of authority they have skirted the issues. Mr. Fitch actually did not respond to all items of concern – many of which were structural flaws – during the review of the structure of the well head and bore hole.

Stephen Chester himself at the last public meeting mentioned that the waste to be pumped under the homes of American families in Romulus, Michigan, would be 'mostly water'. This clearly indicates that Mr. Chester is unfamiliar with the situation and the nature of the dangerous chemicals which are to be pumped under the ground. Some of the chemicals that

have been approved are lethal in miniscule amounts and so – even though it may be mostly water you would be just as dead as if it were mostly jello.

These departments have discriminated against the people of Romulus by disregarding local site board determinations, making false and misleading statements, providing incorrect population estimates and using data that the company (EDS – Environmental Disposal Systems of Birmingham) provided which is shot through with inconsistencies, errors and fabrications.

These departments are discriminating on income levels. Surely it is apparent that the local populace is not in a position to fork over more than 319 million dollars in order to build a business relationship with them.

The bureaucratic insider trade has destroyed the democratic process in the area and has undermined confidence not only in the process of permitting by the Environmental Protection Agency by in the Environmental Protection Agency itself which is now seen as a land clearing house and a fee based business.

Mr. Chester – the director of the Department of Environmental Quality – has advanced training in law but not in science. He has shown little inclination to learn. He stated prior taking office and being appointed that he would work with the Governor of the State of Michigan to rejoin the Department of Environmental Quality with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources – he has not done this and instead has continued to build the DEQ into a sultanate which is discriminatory in detail to local interests and citizens who are unable to resist because of the massive influx of money and force from the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

I urge a review of the practices of the Department of Environmental Quality of the State of Michigan and a review of all monies that have been showered on this department.

Please note that the DEQ is heavily involved in supporting the growth and success of golf courses and other private enterprises – often to the detriment – as is clearly the case in Romulus, of the local populace.

For example, Geological and Land Management Division (GLM) Chief: Harold R. Fitch has been handling the material for EDS rather than Waste and Hazardous Materials Division (WHM) Chief: George Bruchmann.

The point of these items has occurred this day – 6.4.2004

[redacted]