ST. FRANCIS PRAYER CENTER
1602 EAST CARPENTER RD.
FLINT, MICHIGAN 48505
PHONE: (313) 787-5330

December 15, 1992

Mr. Herb Tate
Environmental Equity
EPA
401 M St. SW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Tate,

We turn to you with confidence that you can help us in our desperate situation to stop the granting of Michigan DNR Permit #579-92 for the Incinerator/Power Generating Station proposed by Genesee Limited Partnership at 5300 Energy Drive in Genesee Township, Michigan.

Enclosed is a letter to Mr. William Rosenberg that describes our technical concerns with this incinerator and a few of the procedural concerns.

But we write to you because this is a diabolical example of blatant environmental racism and classism-another time people of color and low income are targeted by the continuing rush for profit by our corporations regardless of who is victimized by the pollution. We are sure you are well aware of the higher percentage of poor and people of color who bear the onus of this pollution while receiving much less adequate health care.

One of the fundamental problems comes from the Incinerator/Plant proposed for Genesee Township on the north side of Carpenter Road. Directly across the street begins the City of Flint (south side of Carpenter Road) where many, many poor and predominantly people of color live, especially 2 low income housing complexes and 4 trailer parks within 1/3 mile.

The hardship of attending the DNR hearing 65 miles away in Lansing was much more a burden to the poor and people of color than for others. When people disagreed with the project they were told by the DNR "you just don't understand the technology; if you did you would welcome the project!" and "you'd better accept this because it's going to fly" from Mr. Shaw, a DNR engineer on the project. One woman who expressed fear of the project was told by a DNR engineer on the Air Quality Control Commission, Mr. Frank Ruswick, "I feel like we failed to make her understand the technology and how safe it is." This Afro-American woman understands the technology perfectly well. This racist put down of her intelligence was typical of the way all of us were treated who opposed the project.

The only public information session that was held in Genesee Township was at Genesee High School five and one half miles away from the site. No buses run there, to this all white neighborhood. Carpenter Road school was not selected, that has a nice auditorium and is a couple hundred yards from Energy Drive and is within walking distance of our poor and people of color.

We believe that our civil rights have been violated and that in addition to any satisfaction we might see in the courts, your office were created to rectify just such injustices. We trust that you will use your authority to prevent the issuing of permit #572-92 and to prevent the further significant deterioration of our air quality on the north end of Flint. Thank you for your prompt assistance.

Please find enclosed petitions with over 1600 signatures of people from people in our area highly opposed to this project.

Sincerely yours,

(b) (6) - Privacy

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