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Polluter Pay Tax Day Events To Be Held at Post Offices in 25 States

National Media Statements on Federal Superfund



Center for Health, Environment & Justice

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
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EPA Pushes Forward With Misguided Bush-Era Policies on Toxic Dioxin

Scientific Integrity of Dioxin Report Takes Back-Burner to Industry Delay Tactics

Falls Church, VA – On Tuesday, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson announced the agency's plan for releasing the comprehensive human health and exposure assessment for dioxin. Under [pressure](#) from a coalition of environmental groups headed by the Center for Health, Environment & Justice (CHEJ), the EPA has promised an acceleration of the latest review of one of the reassessments. CHEJ is concerned about loopholes in the EPA's plans. The EPA states they "expect" to complete the study by 2010 but then go on to state the, "release date of the final dioxin human health and exposure assessment is dependent on the scope and complexity of the revisions that will need to be made to the 2003 draft assessment based on the contents of the final response to comments report." The EPA's first health assessment of dioxin was completed in 1985 but over the past twenty years, the release of this report has been delayed.

The current review, to be undertaken by the EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB), was ordered by former President Bush in the final weeks of his presidency. The chemical industry, in an effort to avoid widespread regulation, has lobbied for repeated reviews of the report to delay its release. With no new science to contradict the original findings, [environmentalists](#) are calling for an immediate release of the dioxin report and the cancellation of the latest proposed review by the SAB.

"This plan is merely moving forward with the Bush agenda; not accelerating the release of the dioxin report," said Lois Gibbs, Executive Director of CHEJ. *"Administrator Jackson gives an optimistic deadline for the SAB reassessment in 2010, but leaves a loophole to miss this deadline depending on the 'scope and complexity of the revisions.' Which is it? In October, the EPA estimated that this reassessment would take until 2012. American families have a right to know the serious health impacts of Dioxins. We've waited over twenty years; we can't wait through more red tape and missed deadlines."*

Stephen Lester, Science Director for CHEJ argues that another review by the SAB will not be able to resolve the question of whether there is a threshold for exposure to dioxin: *"It has been the EPA's position since its release of the 1994 draft reassessment report that the issue of whether there's a threshold for dioxin's many adverse health effects is a policy matter, not a scientific issue. That position has not changed. There remains insufficient scientific evidence to clearly establish whether in fact there is a threshold for dioxin. In the absence of a clear scientific basis, the EPA has wisely decided to err on the side of protecting public health by setting no threshold. This is not a scientific issue that can be resolved by another review by the SAB. It is a policy decision."*

Mr. Lester further argues that the chemical industry's push to see the EPA downgrade its classification of dioxin from 'carcinogenic to humans' to 'likely to be carcinogenic to humans' is without merit: *"Whether dioxin is a human carcinogen has been decided by the most prestigious scientific body in the world – the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a division of the World Health Organization. The IARC committee that reviewed the cancer data on dioxin was comprised of the leading cancer researchers and risk assessors in the world. This same determination – that dioxin is a human carcinogen – has also been made by the National Toxicology Program of the United States' National Institutes of Health, the most prestigious cancer research group in the US. Another review by the SAB will not alter the impeccable credentials of the IARC dioxin committee nor change their conclusions about dioxin which EPA has agreed with."*

Mike Schade, CHEJ PVC Campaign Coordinator to the human element of this debate: *"Until the EPA releases this report, we cannot take action to protect our communities from this potent cancer-causing chemical. Dioxin has been polluting our bodies and the nation's food supply while the EPA has spent over twenty years mired in this endless cycle of reviews of comments of reassessments on a report that remained essentially unchanged. This new plan only validates further delays. Enough is enough. It's time to cut through the red tape."*

In 2001 and 2002, dozens of members of Congress, led by Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), sent letters to EPA calling on the agency to release the study. Almost 10 years later, the study is still in draft form and the EPA now wants to delay the release until at least 2010.

For more information on the history of delays of this report, please visit:
http://besafenet.com/campaigns/dioxin_history.shtml

Letter to EPA from concerned doctors, nurses and scientists:
<http://besafenet.com/pvc/documents/2009/letters/Dioxin%20Letter%20Nurses%20Doctors%20and%20Scientists%20FINAL.pdf>

Letter to EPA from dioxin-impacted communities:
http://besafenet.com/pvc/documents/2009/letters/Dioxin%20Sign%20On%20Letter%20COMMUNITIES%20FINAL%204_.pdf

Quotes from dioxin-impacted communities:
<http://besafenet.com/pvc/documents/2009/letters/Quotes%20From%20Dioxin%20Impacted%20Communitiesx.pdf>

About CHEJ

The Center for Health, Environment & Justice exists to mentor the movement to build healthier communities by empowering people to prevent harm in as many ways, and for as many people, as possible. We believe this can happen when people and groups have the power to play an integral role in promoting human health and environmental integrity. CHEJ's role is to provide the tools, the direction, and the encouragement to these people and groups, so that they can build strong, healthy communities where they live, work, learn, shop, play and pray. Following her successful effort to prevent further harm for the people living in contaminated Love Canal, Lois Gibbs founded CHEJ in 1981 in order to continue mentoring others seeking to prevent harm. CHEJ provides mentoring assistance to communities, homeowners, families and individuals throughout the country. To date, CHEJ has assisted over 10,000 groups nationwide. Currently, CHEJ is mentoring community groups in Florida, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina and Ohio. Details on CHEJ's efforts to help people and communities prevent harm can be found at <http://chej.org/>.

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Clean Water Action Alliance of Massachusetts * Center for Health, Environment and Justice * Health Care Without Harm – Boston * Women’s Community Cancer Project * Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition * Partners in Perinatal Health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, September 27, 2007

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New Testing Finds Lead in Children’s PVC Toys Sold in Massachusetts

Advocates Urge Recall of PVC/Vinyl Toys at Global Chemical Industry Conference and Call for Statewide Policy Reform to Replace Toxic Toys with Safer Alternatives

(Boston, MA) Still reeling from recalls of toys contaminated with lead, the toy industry takes another hit from new testing that identifies popular children’s PVC (vinyl) toys containing lead. New testing shows that a number of toys purchased in MA last week contain dangerous levels of lead. Parents are concerned because there is no reliable government system to ensure products are safe. Over 50 toys and consumer products were tested and of them, 13 contained lead, 10 of which are made out of vinyl. Of those 13, a "Go Diego, Go backback", a “Superfly monkey” and a pair of Circo boots had extremely high levels of lead. To sample the toys, the groups used a portable X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) device, which identifies the elemental composition of any material in less than 60 seconds.

"There's no reason children should be exposed to dangerous chemicals in toys or other products. Safer alternatives are available. Massachusetts must pass legislation that requires a phase out of harmful chemicals to protect our health and our future," said Elizabeth Saunders of Clean Water Action.

Advocates released the toy testing results and demonstrated the “instant-analysis” toy testing technology at a news conference in Boston outside the Global Vinyl Forum conference, a gathering of over 200 representatives from PVC chemical companies around the world. A group of women wore pregnant belly costumes to highlight how lead and phthalates found in vinyl toys can harm infants. Large banners that read “PVC Toys Poisoning Our Future” and “Play it Safer” flanked them.

“PVC children’s toys are poisoning our future and these toxic toys should be recalled,” said Lois Gibbs, Executive Director of the Center for Health, Environment and Justice. “Parents shouldn’t have to worry whether their children’s PVC toys contain lead or other toxic chemicals that have been banned in Europe. The good news is safer and healthier alternatives are available.”

Advocates are urging an immediate recall of PVC/Vinyl toys and childcare articles, and issue a call to action for the state legislature and Governor Patrick. The legislature is currently considering the Safe Alternatives Bill (H.783 & S.558) which creates a state program to require that companies replace lead and other hazardous chemicals with safer alternatives where feasible. The groups are urging Governor Patrick to add PVC vinyl toys to a recently proposed ban of lead-containing toy jewelry.

“Lead has no place in our children’s toys, especially when safer alternatives are available,” said Dr. Sean Palfrey, Medical Director of the Boston Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

“Exposure to lead can cause learning, language and behavioral problems such as lowered IQ, seizures and brain damage, anemia, and, after long exposure, damage to the kidneys, nerves, and reproductive system.”

"The idea that as a mother I need to worry about whether my child is being poisoned while s/he is playing with toys is shocking," said Laura Spark, a Boston area concerned parent. "Even more shocking is the fact that I can examine them all I want and not know which toys are safe and which ones are not."

The 13 toys and products that were contaminated with lead are a Go Diego Go Backpack, Superfly Monkey, Circo Boots, Lazy Baby (Kid Connection), Plastic Bag Container, Spiderman Backpack, Yellow Ducks (Distributed by T.W.I.E.), a Table, a Pot, Neon Slate, McDonalds Pouch, Fuzzy Fleece Baby (Goldberger), and Spiderman Pencil Case.

Lead is sometimes used as an additive in PVC plastic products including toys. The world stock of PVC in use contains a staggering 3.2 million tons of lead. Lead has been found in children's PVC toys, lunchboxes, baby bibs, jewelry, garden hoses, mini blinds, Christmas trees, and electronics. PVC children's toys also often contain phthalates, reproductive toxicants that have been banned in toys in Europe. In the past year, Wal-Mart has recalled PVC baby bibs and lunchboxes containing lead, and most recently Toys R Us recalled PVC baby bibs containing lead.

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ATTENTION JOURNALISTS: For copies of the toy testing results, contact Cindy Luppi at (617) 338-8131x208.

ATTENTION PHOTO EDITORS: High resolution photos of the toy testing and action can be downloaded by visiting <http://www.besafenet.com/pvc> after 1:00pm (EDT).

Center for Health, Environment and Justice
www.besafenet.com/pvc

For Immediate Release:
Tuesday July 10, 2007

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New Study: Over 60% of PVC Packaging Violates Laws in 19 States Across the Country

Elevated Levels of Toxic Lead and Cadmium Commonly Found in PVC Packaging

(New York, NY) A new national study released today found for the first time ever that over 60% of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) packaging tested contains toxic heavy metals that violate state toxics in packaging laws in 19 states. Inks and colorants used on plastic shopping and mailing bags were the other packaging materials with frequently detected heavy metals. The study was conducted by the Toxics In Packaging Clearinghouse, a network of nine state environmental agencies coordinating toxics in packaging legislation.

"This new study underscores the need for a global phase out of PVC packaging," said Michael Schade, PVC Campaign Coordinator with the Center for Health, Environment and Justice. "PVC packaging contains heavy metals that can harm our health and environment. Safer PVC-free packaging is widely available and innovative companies are eliminating this poison plastic."

In response to PVC's health and environmental impacts, many companies have publicly committed to eliminate PVC packaging. Wal-Mart has committed to phase out private label PVC packaging in two years. Other companies eliminating PVC packaging include Aveda, Body Shop, Bristol Myers, Boots, Crabtree & Evelyn, Dean Foods, Dell, Estée Lauder, Evian, H&M, Helene Curtis, Hewlett Packard, Ikea, Johnson and Johnson, Kiss My Face, Limited Brands (Victoria's Secret, Bath & Body Works), Marks and Spencer, Microsoft, Nike, Nokia, SC Johnson, Samsung, Sharp, and Sony. A national coalition of over 60 health and environmental organizations are calling on Target to phase out PVC packaging and products. Since October, over 40,000 Target customers have signed petitions and sent letters to the company and over 200 events have been held at Target stores across the country.

Nineteen states have laws that prohibit the sale or distribution of packaging containing intentionally added cadmium, lead, mercury, and hexavalent chromium. The states with this legislation are California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

The Center for Health, Environment and Justice (CHEJ) is working to prevent harm by shifting decision makers from producing, using and disposing of PVC consumer products and packaging. CHEJ has worked with and convinced Microsoft, Johnson and Johnson, Wal-Mart, Crabtree & Evelyn, and other companies to phase out their use of PVC in packaging.

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Attention reporters: Copies of the new study are available online at
www.toxicsinpackaging.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 15, 2008

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Toys R Us Becomes Latest Retailer to Reduce PVC

Toys R Us Joins Wal-Mart, Target, Sears, Kmart in Adopting Goal to Phase Out Toxic Plastic

(Falls Church, VA) Today Toys"R"Us announced a new policy to reduce polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic, phthalates, and lead in children's and infant toys. The company is reducing PVC use and is moving towards a goal of offering PVC-free products. They also announced that by the end of 2008, juvenile products must be produced without the addition of phthalates. In a separate statement, Wal-Mart announced the company is also requiring suppliers to phase out phthalates in children's toys. Toys"R"Us is the latest major retailer to adopt a goal to reduce their use of PVC. Toys"R"Us joins Wal-Mart, Target, Sears, Kmart, Ikea, and H&M in reducing PVC in products.

"Toys"R"Us' new PVC-free goal is good news for our children's health, safety, and well being," said Michael Schade, PVC Campaign Coordinator with the Center for Health, Environment and Justice. "PVC toxic toys often contain dangerous chemicals such as phthalates and lead. These toxic chemicals have no place in our children's toys. We call on Toys"R"Us to take the next step by setting clear benchmarks and timeframes for phasing out toxic PVC toys in order to prevent harm to our children's health."

CHEJ joined SEIU, Working Families Party, and other organizations at media events in October and December calling on Toys R Us to phase out PVC and other harmful chemicals in their toys.

Advancing its mission to prevent health-related harm to individuals and the environment, CHEJ has been campaigning vigorously to educate retailers and the public about the dangers associated with PVC plastic in toys, packaging, and other consumer products. Toys"R"Us is joining a growing list of dozens of companies including Target, Wal-Mart, Sears, Kmart, Microsoft, Johnson & Johnson, Nike, and Apple that are eliminating or reducing its PVC products and packaging.

The Center for Health, Environment & Justice exists to mentor the movement to build healthier communities by empowering people to prevent harm.

For more details on CHEJ's PVC campaign visit <http://www.besafenet.com/pvc>.



Center for Health, Environment and Justice

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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New Consumer Health Guide – “Pass Up the Poison Plastic, The PVC-Free Guide for Your Family & Home” Released Just in Time for the Holiday Shopping Season

Guide Features Safer Alternatives to Hundreds of Toxic PVC Baby Products, Toys, & Other Products for Children & the Home

(Falls Church, VA) A new guide released today just in time for the holiday shopping season empowers parents and consumers worried about toxic chemicals in toys, baby products, and the home to find safer products. *Pass Up the Poison Plastic – the PVC-Free Guide for Your Family & Home* lists the most common consumer products made out of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic and safer PVC-free products. PVC, also known as vinyl, is the worst plastic for our health and environment, releasing dangerous chemicals that can cause cancer from manufacture to disposal. The Center for Health, Environment and Justice (CHEJ), who coordinates a national campaign to phase out PVC, released the new guide. It can be downloaded for free at www.besafenet.com/pvc

Pass Up the Poison Plastic features a listing of PVC-free products in no less than eighty product categories including:

- Baby care products;
- Building materials;
- Children’s toys;
- Electronics;
- School and office supplies; and more!

It also includes the top ten reasons for purchasing PVC-free products, quick tips for avoiding PVC, a listing of common household products that may contain PVC, information about other toxic plastics to avoid, a cheat sheet to common plastic acronyms, information on simple actions consumers can take for safer products and a healthier environment, and more.

“As consumers, we need to take personal responsibility for the health and environmental impacts of the products we purchase,” said **Mike Schade, co-author of the guide and PVC**

Campaign Coordinator for the Center for Health, Environment and Justice. “We’ve created this new guide to empower consumers to find safer solutions to PVC, the most toxic plastic for our health and environment. We can help build consumer consciousness and demand for safer, healthier products by purchasing PVC-free products.”

PVC products often contain dangerous toxic additives such as phthalates, lead, and organotins, which can leach out and pose avoidable dangers to consumers. Many toxic toys recalled over the past few years were made out of PVC. Approximately 90% of all phthalates are used to soften PVC products. In the summer of 2008, Congress enacted legislation to ban phthalates in children’s toys, but are still allowed in other PVC products in the home, despite their known hazards. A number of studies have identified correlations between phthalates in PVC products and asthma in children and adults.

A number of major retailers, including Target, Sears Holdings, Wal-Mart, JCPenneys, and IKEA have enacted major policies to reduce or phase out PVC products and/or packaging.

CHEJ mentors a movement building healthier communities by empowering people to prevent harm caused by chemical and toxic threats. CHEJ works with communities to empower groups by providing the tools, direction, and encouragement they need to advocate for human health, to prevent harm and to work towards environmental integrity. Following her successful effort to prevent further harm for families living in contaminated Love Canal, Lois Gibbs founded CHEJ in 1981 to continue the journey. To date, CHEJ has assisted over 10,000 groups nationwide.

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ATTENTION REPORTERS: To download the new guide released today, visit www.besafenet.com/pvc

**Center for Health, Environment & Justice • Citizens' Environmental Coalition •
Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes • Nuclear Information & Resource Service**

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

December 2, 2008

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First-Ever Study by Economists & Scientists Reveals True Costs of Nuclear Waste; Leaving Waste Buried Onsite Can Cost Over \$27 Billion While Endangering Public Health and Great Lakes for Tens of Thousands of Years.

State-Funded Study Finds Waste Excavation Cleanup Presents the Least Risk to a Large Population and the Lowest Cost; Has National Implications for Proposed Reprocessing Facilities and Reactors.

(Buffalo, NY) Economists and scientists released a first-ever study today on the long-term cleanup costs for the West Valley nuclear waste site, located 30 miles south of Buffalo, NY. *The Real Costs of Cleaning Up Nuclear Waste: A Full Cost Accounting of Cleanup Options for the West Valley Nuclear Waste Site*, investigated the costs of digging up radioactive waste versus leaving waste buried onsite for the first 1,000 years. (The wastes will be dangerously radioactive for tens of thousands of years). The study revealed leaving buried waste at the site is both high risk and expensive while a waste excavation cleanup presents the least risk to a large population and the lowest cost.

Over 1000 years, waste excavation costs \$9.9 billion while leaving buried waste onsite costs between \$13 and \$27 billion, depending on whether a catastrophic release occurs or not. The study authors found onsite buried waste inadequately protects public health due to serious erosion problems, and poses a risk to residents if controls fail and dangerous radioactive waste pollutes Lake Erie. This is the first time a full cost accounting approach has been applied to a waste site cleanup. Environmental groups urged that the full economic, environmental and public health consequences of this nuclear reprocessing waste site showed the true costs that should be considered in relation to proposed nuclear reprocessing plants and reactors. The study was funded by the state of New York, through a grant sponsored by Senator Catharine Young (R-Olean), and was conducted by Synapse Energy Economics, Tufts University, SUNY Fredonia and Radioactive Waste Management Assoc.

William Steinhurst, Ph.D., Senior Consultant at Synapse Energy Economics, Inc. stated "The presence of long-lived radioactive wastes at the West Valley site requires that we, as a society, make choices that recognize the risks and costs imposed on our children, grandchildren and future generations. Looking out even over the next 1000 years shows that leaving buried waste onsite is the more expensive choice by many billions of dollars, and is also the more risky choice for residents of Cattaraugus County and its neighbors along Lake Erie. The Department of Energy and state agencies should explore options for retrievable, monitored, above-ground storage of nuclear waste at a more stable site. In any new study, they should rigorously and with public input address

the difficulty of maintaining effective security and erosion controls at the site over a period five times the age of our nation. Their current study contains only the barest skeleton of a budget for those controls, and that is only for 200 years. On top of that, those costs are treated in a way that assumes those costs for future generations are, in effect, of no importance."

Michael P. Wilson, Ph.D., Professor of Geosciences at SUNY Fredonia said, "The nuclear wastes at West Valley, radioactive for tens of thousands of years, will be consumed by erosion and discharged downstream to Lakes Erie and Ontario in less than 3,000 years and may be dangerously exposed in less than 200 or 300 years as evidenced by formation of gullies, retreat of plateau edges, reshaping of stream profiles, observations of soil cracks and groundwater seepage, and upstream migration of waterfalls in the gullies."

Marvin Resnikoff, Ph.D., Senior Associate, Radioactive Waste Management Associates, stated, "The site has a very large inventory of radioactive materials. It almost goes without saying that when taken into the body, these materials can cause cancer. Our assessment is that without careful cleanup, these materials will be released from the site and can enter Cattaraugus Creek and Lake Erie, causing a large number of cancers and other health effects."

Judith Einach, Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes, said "Members of the Coalition have been watch-dogging this site and running interference for over 30 years. As New Yorkers we are burdened by having to pay both state and federal tax dollars on this nuclear waste. We are further burdened by having to continually worry about whether smart decisions will be made for the site. We have had to take the DOE to court at our own expense. It is time for DOE to commit to doing whatever it takes to fully clean up the West Valley nuclear site and repair the damage done to our environment.

Diane D'Arrigo, Nuclear Information and Resource Service, said "New Yorkers now have six months to give their input on the final disposition of the West Valley nuclear waste site. Based on the site geology and radioactive hazards explained in this report, the decision to dig it up must be made *now* before the radioactivity oozes and leaks closer to our drinking water and contaminates more soil, fish, game, crops, recreational areas and wildlife. The economics are consistent with the moral arguments to dig it up. If we leave long-lasting radioactive waste in eroding ground, knowing it will escape into waterways and the environment, we are abandoning our responsibility to future generations.

Anne Rabe, Center for Health, Environment & Justice, said "The federal and state agencies need to heed the findings of this important study. Leaving waste buried at West Valley is dangerous for future generations and extremely costly. It is time for the agencies to move quickly to select a cleanup method. Clearly, waste excavation is the only way to remediate the West Valley site so that we protect our health and the Great Lakes environment."

To view report and fact sheets, visit www.besafenet.com or www.chej.org



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NEWS RELEASE

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Report Reveals Corporate Bailouts & Climate Change-Related Hurricanes, Tornadoes and Floods Burden Federal Superfund. *President and Congress Take First Steps to Restore Polluter Pays Fees for Program.*

Falls Church, VA – A new study released today sheds light on the growing connections between global climate change, corporate bankruptcies and the crisis of the Federal Superfund toxic waste cleanup program. [Superfund: In the Eye of the Storm](#), released by the Center for Health, Environment & Justice (CHEJ), reveals new threats from climate change-related extreme weather conditions, such as hurricanes, tornadoes and flooding, are damaging Superfund toxic waste sites. While climate change drives up the costs, the program's solvency also threatens to buckle under a depleted Trust Fund and bankruptcy loopholes that have not been closed in over twenty-five years.

Extreme weather conditions that have impacted Superfund sites include Hurricanes Ike in 2008, Katrina and Rita in 2005, tornadoes in Oklahoma and Iowa in 2008 and related flooding in Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri in 2008. From 2004 through 2008 alone, 56 Superfund sites were impacted by hurricanes in the Gulf Coast region. *"The strong winds of hurricanes and tornados can cause significant damage such as disrupting contaminated soils and moving waste barrels long distances. Flooding can dislodge buried waste and spread contamination in soil. Refinancing the financially ailing Superfund becomes even more critical when you realize the vulnerability of Gulf Coast communities facing another hurricane that can spread toxic waste from Superfund sites,"* says CHEJ Science Director, Stephen Lester.

Another threat to Superfund is the eye of the economic storm, corporate bankruptcies, where polluting companies are allowed to avoid the costs of cleaning up their site by declaring bankruptcy. Recently, the American Smelting and Refining Company (ASARCO) filed for Chapter 11 reorganization starting a process that could result in the largest, most environmentally significant bankruptcy in America's history as the company has 94 Superfund sites in 21 states. This unfair burden on Superfund is due in part to the Environmental Protection Agency's irresponsible inaction, say the report authors. When the Superfund law passed in 1980, it required EPA to create financial assurance regulations so that polluters could not evade cleanup costs by declaring bankruptcy. Nearly thirty years later, a federal court recently ordered EPA to issue the regulations and close the bankruptcy loophole.

While increased costs are on the rise, Superfund's financial crisis has been clear since polluter pays fees lapsed in 1995, causing the program's bankruptcy in 2003 when taxpayers picked up the bill at approximately \$1.2 billion per year. As a result, there has been a Superfund slowdown and under the Bush Administration (2001 to 2008), there was more than a 50% decrease in the pace of site cleanups. There is only one solution—Congress must reinstate the polluter pays fees, say the report authors. Without fees to replenish Superfund, there is simply not enough money to do the critical job of cleaning up hundreds of toxic waste sites. Given the poor economic climate, it is unfair to expect the American taxpayers to pay for 100% of the annual costs of this program.

"The time to act is now. The country cannot afford to continue bailing out polluters while the list of unfunded sites grows. Congress should restore the polluter pays fees and enable Superfund to move forward and respond to new toxic threats. The core principle of the Superfund program is that polluters, not taxpayers, should pay to clean up these deadly toxic waste sites," says CHEJ Executive Director, Lois Gibbs. Gibbs was a leader of the successful community fight to relocate over 800 families away from the Love Canal toxic waste dump in Niagara Falls, NY which led to the creation of the Federal Superfund in 1980.

CHEJ and 40 groups in 23 states are delivering the report to federal policymakers today with an appeal to reinstate polluter pays fees, supported by President Obama in his proposed budget, Representative Earl Blumenauer's HR 564 bill and Senator Frank Lautenberg's soon-to-be introduced legislation. One of the fees, the Corporate Environmental Income Tax paid by companies with \$2 million or more in profits, was only \$12 on every \$10,000 in profits—the price of a large, cheese pizza. Groups will be delivering a pizza to Senators and House Representatives to highlight the low cost of corporate Superfund fees.

"We have all been shocked by the creative accounting employed by the likes of Bernie Madoff, but where is the outrage over creative bankruptcies that can allow companies like ASARCO to unload billions of dollars of cleanup costs onto taxpayers? Its time for EPA to close the bankruptcy loophole and for Congress to reestablish the polluter pay fees to replenish Superfund," says Anne Rabe, CHEJ Campaign Coordinator.

To view the report, which also features background information on Superfund's fiscal crisis and Superfund Site Profiles in AK, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, ID, IL, ME, MA, MI, MO, NJ, NM, NY, NC, OK, OR, PA, PR, TN, TX, VT and WA, go to <http://www.chej.org/>

About CHEJ: CHEJ was founded in 1981 by Lois Gibbs, the community leader who led the successful fight to relocate over 800 families away from the Love Canal toxic waste dump in Niagara Falls, NY. CHEJ mentors a national movement to build healthier communities by empowering people to prevent harm caused by toxic chemical threats. CHEJ has helped over 10,000 groups by providing the tools, direction, and encouragement to advocate for safe and healthy communities. <http://www.chej.org/>

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***Professor Randall Parrish, University of Leicester and
NERC Isotope Geosciences Laboratory, British Geological Survey, UK
Dr. David Carpenter, Institute for Health and the Environment, NY
Professor John Arnason, The University at Albany, NY***

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

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**REPORT SHOWS NEW YORKERS CONTAMINATED WITH
DEPLETED URANIUM OVER 20 YEARS AFTER EXPOSURE**

Uranium Found in Homes After Federal Cleanup of NL Industries Pollution

(Albany, NY) A new scientific report documents depleted uranium (DU) can be detected in people more than two decades after exposure when using high sensitivity urine tests. The tests were conducted on people who lived or worked near the former DU munitions factory in Colonie, New York. Recent environmental test results reveal that significant DU remains in some household dust, after a federal cleanup of the area.

The biological study shows a significant proportion of tested individuals have internal DU contamination as a result of exposure to DU emissions occurring over 20 years ago and or residual contamination still remaining from the former NL Industries factory near Albany, NY. Positive results were found in former employees and residents who lived or worked in close proximity to the plant during its active phase of emissions from 1958 to 1982. The detection of DU in 100% of workers and up to 20% of the residents tested is significant, since no previous study has documented evidence of exposure to DU aerosols more than 20 years prior.

Five factory workers continue to excrete high amounts of uranium dominated by a DU isotopic signature. The persistence of high excretion rates of uranium in urine in workers, more than 20 years since active exposure, indicates that the body burden of uranium must still be significant, whether retained in lungs, lymphatic system, kidneys or bone. Of eighteen individuals that either lived or worked near the plant for many years, DU was detected in up to four, with DU being 1–12% of the excreted uranium. The results are being published in an international journal, *Science of the Total Environment*, in the near future (electronically available on-line). The isotope measurements, which have never before been conducted on any community in the U.S., are a joint initiative of United States and United Kingdom scientists, led by Professor Randall Parrish. (See attached summary of journal article).

Scientists also conducted tests of household dust in a few homes and a business near the NL Industries site and discovered DU contamination in excess of the federal site cleanup standard. The startling results came just two months after the federal government ended a

"clean up" of the site and surrounding neighborhood and 27 years after the NYS Supreme Court closed the NL Industries factory for illegal uranium emissions.

Randall Parrish, Professor, Dept. of Geology, University of Leicester and NERC Isotope Geosciences Laboratory, British Geological Survey, Keyworth, UK said, "Our study has shown that it is possible to detect and potentially quantify the historic exposure of residents to aerosol

- more -

DU oxides from the NL plant. The amount of DU aerosols released from the NL plant is comparable to the aerosolized DU from the entire 1991 Gulf War, and considering the attention paid to Gulf War veterans and their health concerns, I feel it is entirely appropriate to look at Colonie health issues in much more detail."

Dr. David Carpenter, Institute for Health & the Environment, University at Albany, said, "DU is a radioactive substance, and we know that ionizing radiation causes cancer and birth defects. Uranium also has toxicity independent of the radioactive component, but less is known about these effects. Study of the health of exposed individuals is necessary."

John Arnason, Professor, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, University at Albany said, "Because DU occurs as microscopic particles that are potentially harmful when inhaled, resuspension of contaminated dust is a concern. The particles are similar to those produced in test ranges and battlefields where DU weapons have been used, making study of the NL Industries site critical to understanding this problem."

NL Industries emitted at least 5 tons of DU aerosols into a residential and commercial area from 1958 to 1982 from its factory at 1130 Central Avenue (Rte. 5), Colonie, NY. DU is a toxic chemical due to its heavy metal and radiological properties. NL used DU to manufacture armor-piercing munitions (projectiles) and other products.

Read the complete report at

http://www.albany.edu/news/pdf_files/Depleted_Uranium_Article.pdf.



MEDIA RELEASE

For Release:
Thursday, Nov. 15, 2007

Contacts:
Janet Marsh, BREDL: 336-977-0852 (cell)
David Mickey, BREDL: 336-624-2412 (cell)
Anne Rabe, CHEJ: 518-653-3843 (cell)

FIRST SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE ON PRECAUTIONARY ACTION HELD NOVEMBER 16-18 IN GREENSBORO, NC

National, State and Local Organizations Call for Precautionary Action on Nuclear Power, Sewage Sludge and Mega-Dumps with Clean Energy, Zero Waste Recycling and Reduction, and More Actions to Prevent Harm

(Greensboro, NC) The national Center for Health, Environment and Justice (CHEJ) and NC's Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL) are holding the first conference in the Southeast on the serious public health threats of nuclear power, mega-dumps and sewage sludge land application.

"With chemicals building in our children's bodies before they are two years old, and half the men in the U.S. destined to get cancer, we obviously need some new ways of making decisions," said keynote speaker Peter Montague, Environmental Research Foundation. "That's where the precautionary principle comes in and that's why we're having this conference. The precautionary principle is a new way of thinking that could get our economy back on track and could give regular people a say in the decisions that affect their lives."

"Our conference will launch multi-state action campaigns for sound, just energy and waste policies," said Janet Marsh, Executive Director of BREDL. She added, "The Southeast ***will not*** be the nation's dumping ground."

"Precaution is a powerful, unifying force which has created a new movement that is changing the way environmental policy is made in America," said Lois Gibbs, Executive Director of CHEJ. "The key element of precaution is that it shifts the questions we ask about environmental hazards from 'what level of harm is acceptable?' to 'how can we prevent harm?' The Southeast faces serious environmental and public health threats from proposed mega-dumps, nuclear reactors and sewage sludge land application. Together we will move forward to establish precautionary

alternatives to these problems with campaigns such as sustainable zero waste and recycling programs, clean energy and conservation, so that wherever and whenever possible, communities, corporations, civic leaders and families are thinking first and foremost about preventing harm."

Ellen Z. Harrison, Director of Cornell Waste Management Institute, a conference speaker, noted that "sewage sludges contain such a mix of toxic contaminants and pathogens that spreading them on land where we eat and play is not an acceptable risk."

Louis Zeller, BREDL Clean Energy Campaign Director, and a conference speaker, said "Nuclear power is just too costly in terms of tax dollars, human health, waste problems and water usage. No matter what energy question you ask, nuclear power is not the answer."

"Citizens of the Southeast must stop their congressional representatives from subsidizing a new generation of nuclear reactors at taxpayer expense with federal loan guarantees running into the tens of billions of dollars," said Kevin Kamps of Beyond Nuclear, a conference presenter. "It makes no sense for taxpayers to bail out a fifty year old industry, and to co-sign risky loans that would build new radioactive bull's eyes vulnerable to terrorist attacks, accidents, and the piling up of yet more high-level radioactive waste."

David Mickey, BREDL Zero Waste Coordinator stated, "Zero waste and Extended Producer Responsibility present realistic solutions to the burden of excessive product waste dumped in our communities. This conference is an opportunity to learn about the alternatives to mega-dumps and incinerators and how we can use a precautionary approach to protect people and the environment."

Community and environmental leaders from over 70 organizations in FL,GA, NC, PA, SC, TN and VA are attending the first multi-state conference on precautionary action. The conference is taking place at the Proximity Hotel, recipient of the LEED gold rating and one of the nation's greenest hotels, at 704 Green Valley Rd., Greensboro, NC 27408. The conference begins on Friday, November 16th, at 6:30 PM and concludes on Sunday, November 18th, at 2:00 PM.

To view the agenda, visit <http://besafenet.com>.

To set up speaker interviews and receive a complimentary media pass, please contact BREDL or CHEJ.

The Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL) is a regional, community-based, non-profit environmental organization. Our founding principles are earth stewardship, environmental democracy, social justice, and community empowerment. Remaining true to our rural beginnings, our organization is governed by the people who live in communities threatened by industrial pollution and toxic waste. Working in rural and disadvantaged areas, our staff and volunteers put into practice the ideals of love of community and love of neighbor. Our base of strength is our work in 33 North Carolina poor and moderate income counties from the mountains to the sea. In recent years we have extended our community organizing to rural Virginia, eastern Tennessee and targeted South Carolina counties.

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**CALENDAR OF
DON'T DUMP ON US: KEEP NORTH CAROLINA HEALTHY
TOUR EVENTS
AUGUST 12 – 20, 2007**

Sunday, August 12, 2007

Forsyth County

Winston-Salem, NC

Reception & "Love Canal Story" Film Show

A reception will be held featuring Lois Gibbs, Executive Director of the national Center for Health, Environment & Justice. A nationally-acclaimed environmental leader, Gibbs is known as the "mother of Superfund" for her groundbreaking victory relocating 900 families away from the Love Canal toxic waste dump in 1980. Gibbs and local environmental leaders will discuss the mega-dump problems and the need for a fair and protective state policy on waste. After the reception, a showing of the "Love Canal Story" film will be held.

Where: Blessing Project Foundation, 823 Reynolda Rd., Winston-Salem.

When: 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Contact: Martina Moore, Blessings Project Foundation, 336-724-9393,

martina@blessingsproject.org, <http://www.blessingsproject.org>

Sponsoring Organizations: Blessings Project Foundation, Piedmont Environmental Alliance, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, CHEJ.

Monday, August 13, 2007

Forsyth County

Winston-Salem, NC

Press Conference to Kick-off Don't Dump on Us Tour

A press conference will be held featuring Lois Gibbs, Executive Director of the national Center for Health, Environment & Justice, David Mickey of Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, and Keith Hibner of Fight the Forsyth Stokes Dump. A giant, 25-foot inflatable "ducky" will join the speakers, holding a sign stating "Don't be a Sitting Duck for Mega-Dumps." A nationally-acclaimed environmental leader, Gibbs is known as the "mother of Superfund" for her groundbreaking victory relocating 900 families away from

the Love Canal toxic waste dump in 1980. The speakers will discuss the Forsyth County construction & demolition dump and the need for a fair and protective state policy on waste, and describe the statewide tour.

Where: Forsyth County Governmental Center, 201 N. Chestnut. St., Winston-Salem.

When: 12:30 PM

Contact: David Mickey, BREDL, 336-769-0955, davidmickey@bellsouth.net and Keith Hibner, FFSD, khibner@triad.rr.com

Sponsoring Organizations: Fight the Forsyth Stokes Dump, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, CHEJ.

Tuesday, August 14, 2007

Richmond County

Rockingham

Press Conference

A press conference will be held featuring Lois Gibbs, Executive Director of the national Center for Health, Environment & Justice, David Mickey of Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, and Svea Strong of Save our Abundant Resources. A nationally-acclaimed environmental leader, Gibbs is known as the "mother of Superfund" for her groundbreaking victory relocating 900 families away from the Love Canal toxic waste dump in 1980. The speakers will discuss the Richmond County dump and the need for a fair and protective state policy on waste.

Where: Richmond County Courthouse, 114 East Franklin St., Rockingham.

When: 12:00 PM Noon

Contact: Svea Strong, SOAR, 910-997-5866, letmeread@carolina.rr.com

Sponsoring Organizations: Save Our Abundant Resources, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, CHEJ

Scotland County

Laurel Hill

Public Forum on Mega-Dumps & a Fair Waste Policy

A panel of speakers will discuss the Scotland County dump and the need for a fair and protective state policy on waste. Speakers include Lois Gibbs, Executive Director of the national Center for Health, Environment & Justice (CHEJ), Bob Davis of Scotland County of Tomorrow (SCOT), Dr. Fred McQueen, NAACP Chapter, Lou Zeller of Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL), Reverend Garland Pierce, and Dr. Fred McQueen, NAACP Chapter. A nationally-acclaimed environmental leader, Gibbs is known as the "mother of Superfund" for her groundbreaking victory relocating 900 families away from the Love Canal toxic waste dump in 1980.

A giant, 25-foot inflatable "ducky" will welcome participants, holding a sign stating "Don't be a Sitting Duck for Mega-Dumps."

Where: Laurel Hill Community Center, Church Street, Laurel Hill (From Hwy 74 and Morgan Street intersection, proceed east and turn north onto Church Street, go over railroad tracks, and Center is on the right.)

When: 7:00 PM

Contact: Bob Davis, SCOT, 910-462-2346, rfcd@alltel.net.

Sponsoring Organization: Scotland County of Tomorrow (SCOT), CHEJ and BREDL.

Wednesday, August 15, 2007

Columbus County

Whiteville

Press Conference

A press conference will be held featuring Lois Gibbs, Executive Director of the national Center for Health, Environment & Justice, David Mickey of Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, and Steve Smith of Friends of the Green Swamp. A giant, 25-foot inflatable "ducky" will join the speakers, holding a sign stating "Don't be a Sitting Duck for Mega-Dumps." A nationally-acclaimed environmental leader, Gibbs is known as the "mother of Superfund" for her groundbreaking victory relocating 900 families away from the Love Canal toxic waste dump in 1980. The speakers will discuss the need for a fair and protective state policy on waste.

Where: North Carolina Museum of Forestry, 415 S. Madison St., Downtown Whiteville.

When: 10:00 AM

Contact: Steve Smith, Friends of the Green Swamp, (910) 641-1335,

stevesmith@interimec.com

Sponsoring Organizations: Friends of the Green Swamp, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, CHEJ.

Lake Waccamaw

Presentations

1:00 PM Presentation by Lois Gibbs Executive Director of the national Center for Health, Environment & Justice

1:45 PM Unique Characteristics of the Waccamaw River Basin

A panel of speakers will discuss Green Swamp and the need for a fair and protective state waste policy. Speakers include Lois Gibbs, CHEJ Executive Director. Dr. Stanley Riggs of E. Carolina University, Professor Larry Cahoon of University of NC, Dr. Susan Lides of Coastal Carolina College and Steve Smith, Friends of the Green Swamp.

Where: Lake Waccamaw State Park Visitor Center

When: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Contact: Steve Smith, Friends of the Green Swamp, 910-642-2106 X226

stevesmith@interimec.com

Sponsoring Organization: Friends of the Green Swamp, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, CHEJ.

Lake Waccamaw

Press Tour

Friends of the Green Swamp and Lois Gibbs, CHEJ Executive Director, will give a press tour of the park and swamp that would have been impacted by the proposed dump.

Where: Lake Waccamaw State Park Visitor Center

When: 3:00 PM

Contact: Steve Smith, Friends of the Green Swamp, 910-642-2106 X226
stevesmith@interimec.com

Sponsoring Organizations: Friends of the Green Swamp, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League.

Thursday, August 16, 2007

Duplin County

Kenansville

Caring For God's Earth: Children's Event

A children's event will be held featuring environmental skits and songs by Lou Zeller of BREDL on recycling and reuse. Each child will receive a *Pledge and Promise to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Repair* which will be signed by Lois Gibbs, CHEJ Executive Director.

Where: James Sprunt Community College, Tent outside, Highway 11S, Kenansville

When: 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Contact: Frances Parks, Citizens for a Safe Environment, 919-658-9230,
fiveplusone@bellsouth.net

Sponsoring Organizations: Citizens for a Safe Environment, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, CHEJ.

Kenansville

Press Conference & Keep Duplin County Healthy Public Forum

A press conference and public forum will be held featuring Lois Gibbs, Executive Director of the national Center for Health, Environment & Justice, Attorney John Runkle, David Mickey of Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, Solid Waste Manager Bee Barnette, County Recycling Coordinator Teresa Quinn and national expert Peter Anderson. A giant, 25-foot inflatable "ducky" will welcome participants holding a sign stating "Don't be a Sitting Duck for Mega-Dumps." A nationally-acclaimed environmental leader, Gibbs is known as the "mother of Superfund" for her groundbreaking victory relocating 900 families away from the Love Canal toxic waste dump in 1980. The speakers will discuss the impact mega-landfills will have on the air, water, land and people, and the need for a fair and protective state policy on waste.

Where: James Sprunt Community College, Highway 11S, Kenansville

When: 6:30 PM Press Conference, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Public Forum with refreshments.

Contact: Frances Parks, Citizens for a Safe Environment, 919-658-9230,
fiveplusone@bellsouth.net

Sponsoring Organizations: Citizens for A Safe Environment, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, CHEJ.

Friday, August 17, 2007

Greene County

Snowhill

Zero Waste Meeting

Snowhill Mayor Don Davis will discuss zero waste programs with Lois Gibbs, Executive Director of the national Center for Health, Environment & Justice and David Mickey of Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League.

Where: Mayor's Office, Snowhill, NC

When: Mid-day. To be announced

Contact: Frank Warren, 252-747-3529, warren-sa@msn.com and David Mickey, BREDL, 336-769-0955, davidmickey@bellsouth.net

Sponsoring Organizations: Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, CHEJ.

Saturday, August 18, 2007

Person County

Roxboro

Press Conference & Keep Person County Healthy Public Forum.

A 2:00 PM press conference and 6:00 PM public forum will be held featuring Lois Gibbs, Executive Director of the national Center for Health, Environment & Justice and David Mickey of Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League. A giant, 25-foot inflatable "ducky" will welcome participants holding a sign stating "Don't be a Sitting Duck for Mega-Dumps." A nationally-acclaimed environmental leader, Gibbs is known as the "mother of Superfund" for her groundbreaking victory relocating 900 families away from the Love Canal toxic waste dump in 1980. The speakers will discuss the impact mega-landfills will have on the air, water, land and people, and the need for a fair and protective state policy on waste.

Where: Merritt Commons, Main Street, Roxboro.

When: 2:00 PM Press conference with Lois Gibbs and Senator Ellie Kinnaird

3:00 Lois Gibbs speaks on "Lesson Learned from Love Canal."

4:00 Nature Poems and Kids Hour featuring Earth Stage Performances by Lou Zeller, including "Big Throw-away Clown" juggling act, "Talking Trash Blues," plus "Name the Styrofoam Monster," Toy Swap and Recycle Art activities.

5:00 Music and Youth Speaks Forum with teenagers talk about their concerns.

6:00 Waste Reduction Advocates Public forum featuring local speakers on the Person County waste issue.

Contact: Frances Blalock, Person County People Rising in Defense of Ecology (PCPRIDE), fbblalock@aol.com, 336-364-2717 and Pat Hill, PCPRIDE, oaklor@msn.com, 336-364-4452.

Sponsoring Organizations: PCPRIDE, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, and CHEJ.

Sunday, August 19, 2007

Alamance County

Saxapahaw

Keep NC Healthy Event with Speakers & Live Music

A Public Forum will be held featuring Lois Gibbs, Executive Director of the national Center for Health, Environment & Justice, Martha Hamblin of GASP for Clean Air, Pat Dodson of Be Safe – Not Sorry, Nancy Holt of Neighbors Opposing Bio-Sludge (NO-BS), Linda Moore of Watchdogs in the Southeast (WISE), and Mike Holland of Coalition for Environmental Responsibility & Education through Synergy (CERES). A nationally-acclaimed environmental leader, Gibbs is known as the "mother of Superfund" for her groundbreaking victory relocating 900 families away from the Love Canal toxic waste dump in 1980. The speakers will discuss the Stericycle medical waste incinerator, land application of sewage sludge, asphalt plants, and other local polluting industries, and the role communities can play in protecting their health and environment.

Where: Outdoor setting of River Landing Inn, 5942 Whitney Road, Graham. (Outside village of Saxapahaw on banks of the Haw River.)

When: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM Public Forum, Live Music by "Mebanesville" and the "Blackeye Valley Boys," with picnic finger food.

Contact: Sue Dayton, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, sdayton@swcp.com, 336-525-2003.

Sponsoring Organizations: Be Safe – Not Sorry, BREDL and CHEJ.

Monday, August 20, 2007

Raleigh

Justice for NC Communities in Energy and Solid Waste

Press Conference & Rally:

A press conference and rally will be held featuring Lois Gibbs, Executive Director of the national Center for Health, Environment & Justice, Gary Grant of NC Environmental Justice Network, Charles Utley and David Mickey of BREDL and Jim Warren of NC WARN. A giant, 25-foot inflatable "ducky" will join the speakers, holding a sign stating "Don't be a Sitting Duck for Mega-Dumps." A nationally-acclaimed environmental leader, Gibbs is known as the "mother of Superfund" for her groundbreaking victory relocating 900 families away from the Love Canal toxic waste dump in 1980. The speakers will discuss solid waste and energy issues.

Where: Old Capitol, Raleigh, NC

When: 11:30 AM – Press Conference. Noon 12:00 PM Rally.

Contact: David Mickey, BREDL, 336-769-0955, davidmickey@bellsouth.net

Sponsoring Organizations: BREDL, CHEJ, NC for Environmental Justice, NC WARN, Southern Environmental Law Center.

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

Contacts:

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David Mickey, 336-769-0955, davidmickey@bellsouth.net

Keith Hibner, 336-423-6368, khibner@triad.rr.com

National Leader Lois Gibbs Joins State & Local Groups in Calling for a Just and Health-Protective NC Waste Policy

*Groups Cite Increased Costs and Threats to Health & Drinking Water during Statewide **Don't Dump on Us: Keep NC Healthy Tour***

[(Winston-Salem)] The local group Fight Forsyth/Stokes Dump (FFSD), the national Center for Health, Environment & Justice (CHEJ) and the regional Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL) today called on state officials to reject mega-dumps and establish a waste policy based on justice and environmental health protections that will encourage healthy economic growth for all NC communities. The groups held a press conference to launch a statewide *Don't Dump on Us: Keep North Carolina Healthy Tour* of communities in 8 counties across the state.

"We oppose mega-dumps because they are not a good economic deal, burdening communities with excessive out-of-state waste and increased costs from cleaning up polluted drinking water and leaking waste," said CHEJ Executive Director Lois Gibbs. "Mega-dumps are a social injustice posing high risks to threatened rural and low-income communities," she noted. A nationally acclaimed environmental leader, Gibbs is known as the "mother of Superfund" for her groundbreaking victory relocating 900 families away from the Love Canal toxic waste dump in 1980.

Speaking for the local group Fight Forsyth/Stokes Dump, Keith Hibner called on Forsyth County and Winston-Salem officials to re-consider a plan to site a construction and demolition waste dump in the Salem Chapel community. "Given the new landfill legislation just passed by the legislature and the history of this project in Forsyth and Stokes Counties, our elected officials need to take another look at this proposal. We need recycling in Forsyth County, not another dump."

The groups called on state officials to adopt a strong environmental policy on waste, one based on justice and environmental protections with healthy economic growth for all NC communities. "A just waste policy is based on reduction and recycling, which is cost-effective and preserves resources; further, it can create more jobs than landfills," stated Janet Marsh, BREDL Executive Director. "NC has been a national leader in the past, for instance with the forward-thinking Research Triangle plan, and it can be again. We need safe solutions to the waste problem that protect our communities and preserve our resources," said Marsh.

The coalition emphasized that a "Just NC Waste Policy" needs to include the following activities.

- 1) Establish comprehensive waste reduction, reuse and recycling programs with a goal of Zero Waste in North Carolina.
- 2) Promote producer responsibility requiring manufacturers to take back products that cannot be recycled.
- 3) Institute more protections for rural communities, and protect drinking water sources, lakes, parks, public lands and natural resources.
- 4) Aggressively clean up the hundreds of old waste sites across North Carolina.
- 5) Prohibit the dumping of toxic waste in North Carolina landfills.
- 6) Require corporate responsibility with adequate financial assurance requirements to pay for future spills.

The event also featured a giant, 20-foot inflatable duck displaying a banner that said "Don't Be a Sitting Duck for Mega-Dumps." The *Don't Dump on Us: Keep North Carolina Healthy Tour* is traveling to counties across North Carolina including Forsyth, Richmond, Scotland, Columbus, Duplin, Greene, Person and Alamance from August 13th to 20th, starting in Winston-Salem on August 13 and ending with a statewide rally in Raleigh on August 20.

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Photo Opportunity



NEWS RELEASE

For Release:
September 29, 2005

Contacts:
Lois Gibbs, 703-627-9483 (Cell), CHEJ
Elizabeth Hitchcock, 202-546-9707 X316, U.S. PIRG

Superfund 25th Anniversary Report Finds America's Safety Net is Weakest When Needed Most

Groups Call on EPA Superfund to Lead Hurricane Katrina and Rita Pollution Cleanup with Special Appropriation

(Washington DC) Groups across the country are releasing “25th Anniversary of Superfund: America's Safety Net in Crisis,” a national report which finds the program is at its weakest, at a time when it is needed most to respond to the toxic emergencies caused by Hurricane Katrina and Rita. They called for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Superfund program to coordinate the pollution investigation and clean up in LA and MS with a special appropriation of money to Superfund.

On the 25th anniversary of Superfund, and the upcoming 2nd anniversary on October 1st of Superfund's depletion by the loss of polluter pays fees, the report finds that the once-robust and successful toxic waste safety net is now in crisis.

- Since its creation in 1980, Superfund has cleaned up 936 sites protecting hundreds of communities. EPA has secured over \$22 billion from polluters who have funded approximately 70% of the site cleanups (the remaining 30% are cleaned up with Superfund monies).
- Since polluter pays fees expired in 1995, and Congress refused to reinstate them, the burden on taxpayers to support the Superfund Trust Fund has increased by 300%. Taxpayers now fully shoulder the burden of the program's \$1.2 billion annual appropriation to clean up abandoned sites. “This unfair situation has occurred since the Bush Administration made a policy decision to give polluters a free ride and pass the bill on to taxpayers,” noted Lois Gibbs, CHEJ Executive Director. It is the first and only administration to oppose the reinstatement of polluter pays fees. When the fees expired in 1995, Superfund had a surplus of \$3.8 billion—but on October 1, 2003 all industry fee monies were spent shifting the burden totally to taxpayers.
- Superfund has a weakened Trust Fund with a decrease in funding of \$600 million annually—from \$1.8 billion in 1993 to \$1.2 in 2004—according to a recent federal report.

□ Consequently, Superfund cleanups have slowed to a crawl with an approximate 67% reduction in annual site cleanups—from 88 sites in 1997 to just 29 sites cleaned up in 2005. *

□ In Fiscal Year 2004, EPA lacked the funds to start cleanups at 19 Superfund sites in CO, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, LA, MT, NJ, NH, PA, TX and VT. An additional 15 sites almost ready for cleanup starts (in the design phase) also lacked funding in AR, CA, CO, DE, GA, MA, NJ, NH, PA, TN, TX and UT.

Groups in 42 states are also releasing the report and highlighting their Superfund site problems. The report includes *Superfund Site Profiles* for each state with community updates describing health problems, including birth defects and cancer.

This report clearly shows that taxpayers, not polluters, are footing the bill for toxic cleanups -- and as a result, fewer sites are being cleaned up," said Representative Frank Pallone (D-NJ). "It's time for Congress to pass my legislation to reinstate the corporate polluter taxes."

"Superfund is supposed to be our safety net when toxic emergencies occur," said Gibbs. "Now on its 25th anniversary, it is time for Congress to restore the hazardous waste fees on polluting industries. The core principle is that polluters—not taxpayers—should pay to clean up these toxic waste sites. The ailing Superfund is at its weakest when we need it most to quickly respond to the horrific pollution from toxic and oil waste releases and flooded toxic waste sites resulting from Hurricane Katrina."

"The polluter pays fees are the corner stone of a successful Superfund program," said Alex Fidis of U.S. Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG). "Without this critical funding mechanism the program lacks the resources necessary to protect the public and local communities from the toxic threat of Superfund sites. Congress must act immediately to reauthorize the polluter pays fees."

For more information, please visit www.besafenet.com

Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), Former Chair of Superfund Subcommittee will be issuing a separate News Release on the report's findings and the 25th anniversary available later today at www.lautenberg.senate.gov/press.html

[As of September 28, 2005, 29 sites have been remediated in Fiscal Year 2005, which ends on September 30, 2005.]*



BE SAFE

P.O. Box 6806, Falls Church, VA 22040 * Phone: 518-732-4538 or 703-237-2249 * Email: besafe@chej.org

NEWS RELEASE

Embargoed Until:
December 7, 2005

For More Information:
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Stephen Kent, Kent Communications, 845-758-0097
skent@kentcom.com

Microsoft Completes Phase Out of PVC, “the Poison Plastic”

*HP, Crabtree & Evelyn, Kaiser Permanente, Catholic Healthcare West, Wal-Mart, and Others
Join the Trend Towards Phasing Out PVC in Consumer Packaging and Products*

(Washington, DC) Microsoft, along with Kaiser Permanente, Crabtree and Evelyn, and others, announced they have joined the fast-growing ranks of major corporations demonstrating concern about the environmental health impacts of their products or packaging by phasing out PVC plastic (polyvinyl chloride or vinyl). Hazardous chemicals are used and released in this commonly used material, the second highest selling plastic in the world. Studies show links between chemicals created and used during the PVC lifecycle and cancer, reproductive and immune system damage, and asthma.

A coalition of 60 organizations coordinated by the Center for Health, Environment & Justice (CHEJ www.chej.org) worked with these companies to convince them to eliminate PVC packaging or products voluntarily, thereby helping build markets for safer substitutes. Health Care Without Harm works with healthcare institutions to promote safer substitutes to products such as PVC plastic in health care. The Healthy Building Network is leading the campaign to accelerate the transition away from PVC building materials in favor of safer, healthier alternatives.

New PVC phase-out developments include the following:

- Microsoft announced that by the end of 2005 it will have completed its PVC packaging phase out, which has already resulted in the elimination of 361,000 pounds of PVC since July, 2005.
- Crabtree & Evelyn, an international manufacturer and retailer of personal care products, toiletries, home fragrance products and fine foods, has announced it will phase out PVC in its packaging. Crabtree & Evelyn has already begun to phase out PVC in existing and all new product lines, and is developing a complete PVC phase out timeline.
- Kaiser Permanente, the largest non-profit health care system in the US, has announced phasing out PVC wherever possible in millions of square feet in new construction to be built over the next decade. Kaiser vendors have developed PVC-free wall protection products and PVC-free carpeting.

Other recent PVC phase-out announcements include the following:

- Catholic Healthcare West, a healthcare system with 40 hospitals, announced on November 21, 2005, it awarded a five year, \$70 million contract to B.Braun to supply CHW with PVC-free and DEHP-free IV systems.
- HP announced on November 1, 2005 that it plans to eliminate its remaining uses of PVC as safer alternatives are available. The company has removed PVC from all external case parts. In correspondence with HP, they noted that they will be out of all PVC packaging in two months. The Computer Take Back Campaign has worked with HP and other electronic companies to replace PVC and other harmful materials of concern with safer alternatives.
- Wal-Mart announced on October 24, 2005, it will phase out PVC in its private label packaging over the next two years. Environmental health advocates welcomed Wal-Mart's PVC phase out however stressed it's only a small step, and the company needs to address major outstanding environmental and labor concerns.
- Firestone Building Products Company, the world's largest manufacturer of commercial roofing, closed down their PVC line in late 2005 in favor of safer materials. This represents some six thousand tons of PVC production annually.
- Shaw Industries Inc. ran its last production of PVC carpet backing at the beginning of 2005, replacing it with EcoWorx, a cradle-to-cradle product that can be sustainably recycled, has less embodied energy than PVC carpet tiles, and maintains equal or greater performance.
- Johnson and Johnson announced it has set a goal to eliminate PVC in their primary packaging, and is actively engaged with suppliers to identify alternatives to replace existing PVC packaging and avoid PVC use in future products.

A New Multi-Industry Trend

These companies join the ranks of other innovators who have already moved to phase out PVC including Adidas, Aveda, Bath and Body Works, the Body Shop, Gerber, Honda, Ikea, Lego Systems, Nike, Samsung, SC Johnson, Shaw Carpet, Toyota, Victoria's Secret, Volkswagen, and Volvo, among others. They are part of a broader economic trend in which US businesses are increasingly incorporating safer, sustainable materials into their operations.

"We are seeing a new trend: major corporations are phasing out PVC and switching to safer and healthier consumer products," said Lois Gibbs, the housewife-turned-activist who led the community effort to relocate hundreds of families away from the infamous Love Canal toxic waste site, and who went on to found CHEJ. "We applaud Microsoft and other innovative companies who recognize that safeguarding our health is not only the right thing to do, but also makes good business sense. Consumers need to support companies that have demonstrated commitments to safer products. Parents should remember the adage 'bad news comes in threes,' and avoid buying PVC products which are marked with a "3" or "v" in the recycle symbol this holiday season."

"As part of our continuing efforts toward global environmental stewardship, we have eliminated PVC from all Microsoft packaging effective December 31, 2005," said Pamela Passman, vice president of corporate affairs for Microsoft. "The long term environmental effects of PVC are well known, and we are proud that our efforts have eliminated an estimated 361,000 pounds of PVC packaging since July of this year alone. In 2004 we set a goal to eliminate PVC in packing by the end of 2005, and, together with partners such as The Center for Health, Environment and Justice, we have achieved this important step toward protecting our natural resources."

A comprehensive national report, *PVC: Bad News Come in Threes* released by CHEJ, the Environmental Health Strategy Center, and the national BE SAFE coalition last year as part of a kick off campaign to convince companies to eliminate PVC is available at http://www.besafenet.com/PVCDisposalReport_2-Column_R6.pdf.

The Poison Plastic

PVC is the worst plastic from an environmental health perspective, dangerous throughout its entire life cycle of production, use and disposal. Consumers can identify it by looking for the number “3”, “PVC” or the letter “V” inside or underneath the universal recycling symbol. In addition, soft flexible PVC products often have a distinct odor, such as vinyl shower curtains.

When produced or burned, PVC plastic releases dioxins, the most potent synthetic chemicals ever tested, which can cause cancer and harm the immune and reproductive systems. Studies have shown plasticizers such as phthalates have migrated out of PVC consumer products, exposing people to toxic additives linked to reproductive defects and other health problems. Our bodies are contaminated with toxic chemicals released during the PVC lifecycle, such as mercury, dioxins, and phthalates, which may pose life-long health threats.

A 2005 report from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention found eleven of twelve phthalates tested were higher in children than adults (<http://www.cdc.gov/exposurereport/>). A study published in the Environmental Health Perspectives (EHP) journal in August, 2005 demonstrated for the first time a strong link between a mother’s exposure during pregnancy to phthalates and adverse effects on the male reproductive system (<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/docs/2005/8100/abstract.html>). These changes were seen at phthalate levels below those found in one-quarter of the female population of the United States. Most recently, Danish medical researchers published a new study in EHP on September 7th, 2005 finding that 3-month-old boys exposed to higher levels of phthalates through breast milk produced less testosterone than baby boys exposed to lower levels of the chemicals, suggesting the human testis may be vulnerable to phthalate exposure during development (<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/docs/2005/8075/abstract.html>).

PVC cannot be effectively recycled due to the many toxic additives used to soften or stabilize PVC, which can contaminate the recycling batch. In fact, just one PVC bottle can contaminate a recycling load of 100,000 PET bottles. Safer, cost effective alternatives are readily available for virtually every use of PVC. From safer plastics, to bio-based materials, there is a growing market for substitutes for hazardous PVC products.

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To view letters from Microsoft and other companies phasing out PVC, or to access the PVC Fact Sheet and national PVC report, visit www.besafenet.com/phaseout.htm

NOTE TO EDITORS AND PRODUCERS – Representatives of Microsoft and other companies phasing out PVC, as well as representatives of CHEJ, BE SAFE and other environmental groups working to phase out PVC are available for interviews now. To request interviews, call Stephen Kent, Kent Communications at 845-758-0097



BE SAFE

For Immediate Release:
Thursday, April 15, 2004

Contacts:
See information below

National Media Statements on Federal Superfund

Center for Health, Environment & Justice

"My family and thousands of others who live or lived near a Superfund site have paid enough—with our health and finances. It is wrong to have taxpayers pay for Superfund while industries associated with toxic contamination that poisons our water, soil and air continue to get a free pass on these costs. Reinstating Superfund's polluter pay taxes must happen to fulfill Superfund's original intent of a fair and equitable approach to cleaning up toxic waste sites. *Lois Marie Gibbs, Executive Director, Center for Health, Environment & Justice, Falls Church, VA, 703-627-9483 (Cell)*

National Environmental Trust

"The public overwhelmingly believes that polluters, not taxpayers, should pay to clean up toxic waste sites. With a \$477 billion deficit, the oil and chemical industries shouldn't get what amounts to a \$1.7 billion-a-year tax cut from the Bush administration." *Phil Clapp, President, National Environmental Trust. Contact: Dave King, 202-887-8800.*

Sierra Club

"On Tax Day, Americans are especially concerned about how their tax dollars are being spent. Unfortunately, with the Superfund toxic waste program, the Bush administration is using tax dollars "On Tax Day, Americans are especially concerned about how their tax dollars are being spent. Unfortunately, with the Superfund toxic waste program, the Bush administration is using tax dollars instead of making corporate polluters pay to clean up their toxic messes. Americans are paying twice: once with their health and again with their taxes. There is a better way -- the Bush administration should protect the health and safety of our communities." *Carl Pope, Executive Director, Sierra Club. Contact: Annie Strickler, 202-675-2384.*

U.S. PIRG

"Every April 15th, American families pay their taxes, but corporate polluters are let off the hook. By opposing the reinstatement of Superfund's polluter pays fees, the Bush administration is charging regular taxpayers, instead of polluting industries, for toxic cleanups." *Julie Wolk, Environmental Health Advocate, U.S. PIRG, 202-54*

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