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November 9, 1981

Mr. E. Richmond Olson
Canadian Acting Chairman
International Joint Commission
100 Metcalfe St.
18th Floor
Ottawa, Ont.
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Dear Mr. Olson:

This letter stems from the great concern expressed by myself and a number of other groups and individuals concerning the 2,3,7,8, TCDD isomer of dioxin contamination of Lake Ontario.

As you know, the source of TCDD is identified as the Hooker Chemical and Plastics Corporation-owned Hyde Park industrial waste disposal site on the Niagara River. The world's largest deposit of TCDD is located at this site and is leaching through fissures immediately beneath the chemical waste dump, into the Niagara River and on into Lake Ontario.

The full extent to which the drinking water and fish of Lake Ontario have become contaminated by TCDD is clearly unknown. Recent government of Ontario tests for TCDD in Lake Ontario fish have shown levels of up to 26 parts per trillion (ppt). However, these test results vary greatly from results of tests conducted by New York State's Department of Health. As you know, these tests have found Lake Ontario fish to be contaminated by up to 162 ppt. TCDD. In addition, Niagara River carp have been found to contain TCDD in concentrations over 400 ppt.

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I request the International Joint Commission deal with this desperate problem at it's annual meeting on November 18, 1981, in Cleveland.

As a consequence of the manufacturing activities of the Hooker Chemical Company at Niagara Falls, N.Y., Lake Ontario suffers from a degree of chemical contamination that is unequalled in the world. Such high levels of TCDD have never been found in any other fresh water lake (with the exception of a localized area around Lake Huron's Saginaw Bay).

The 2,3,7,8, TCDD isomer of dioxin is the most toxic of all industrial contaminants. This well-known fact is based on the chemical's effects on laboratory animals. The long-term health effects that may result from eating small amounts of such a potent and accumulative poison is of great concern to me. I feel that human beings should not be used as guinea pigs because the governments of Canada and the United States will not admit the gravity of this situation or deal with it in a concrete manner.

It is my hope that by dealing with this extremely serious issue at the International Joint Commission's annual meeting, governments will be forced to realize the significance of this problem and will take steps to deal expeditiously with it.

Thank you for your attention to this extremely important matter.

Yours sincerely,



Neil Young, M.P.
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