

## Calls on CWM to address regulatory requirements

Following the recent Environmental Summit held at Lew-Port on April 14, Dick Sturges, of CWM, was quoted as saying, "CWM is committed to providing a safe workplace and to protecting the public's health and the environment by complying with all local, state, and federal regulatory requirements."

But just a few days before that I read in the paper that, "In three consecutive months in early 2001, the DEC found the company in violation of laws covering PCB discharges. After issuing an order that the company comply with discharge regulations, the DEC monitored the situation and continued to find PCB-contaminated soil and storm water. Unlawful levels of PCBs were found again as recently as 2003 and 2004."

This is hardly complying with regulatory requirements!

The PCBs end up in Lake Ontario. CWM continues to contaminate this beautiful lake, and to make it less desirable for fishing, swimming, boating, and other types of recreation. It makes tourists less sanguine about vacationing in this area.

In addition to the PCBs, we know now that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has confirmed the finding of radioactive waste on the property, and we know that the state Department of Health has told CWM their order restricting land use remains in place. CWM is required to implement a plan to monitor soil for radioactivity and to initiate a program for air monitoring for radioactivity.

It seems to be clear common

sense that more and more toxic wastes should not be brought into an area that has unexamined and untested areas containing radioactive material, and that excavation, which could release radioactive material into the air should not occur.

Year by year, we learn more about the danger of this site. In my judgment, our leaders in the past probably thought, "The land is already ruined; we might as well let more toxics be placed there and get the money for it." But now we know that putting more toxics on top of other toxics is extremely dangerous, and that it would be far better to maintain what is there without disturbing it or adding more waste to it.

Paulette Kline, director of the Niagara County Health Department, says our area has

unexplained illnesses. She has told us about health studies yet to be done. Until they are done and we are reassured, is it wise to continue to add to the problem?

As RRG continues to tell us, "Enough is enough." CWM tells us they want to be a good neighbor. They could prove that by refusing to accept any more toxic wastes. If they are unwilling to do that, let's not hear "good neighbor talk." And let's urge our officials to fight for a ban on any more toxic wastes brought to this site.

If you care about our environment, our property values, our health and our children's health, please join with others in demanding an end to toxic wastes from 30 states bring brought here to be dumped at CWM!

Charles Lamb