

Honorable Brian A. Jackson  
United States Attorney  
Middle District of Louisiana  
777 Florida Street, Second Floor  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

Randall Ashe  
Resident Agent-in-Charge  
U.S.E.P.A. Criminal Investigations  
750 Florida Street  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Dear Mr. Jackson and Mr. Ashe,

I am writing to request your help in uncovering the truth about the extensive groundwater contamination tragedy in Iberville Parish concerning Myrtle Grove. This problem has affected several minority communities in the area. LEAN and its members respectfully request you review this problem for any criminal ramifications. We believe that you will find questions that need answers. For example:

1. Why wasn't anyone properly notified by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals about this contamination when they knew about it as far back as 1997?
2. Why can't the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality determine the source of this contamination when Dow uses these chemical precursors in their processes and contamination has been traced all the way up to their property?
3. Why won't the LDEQ push Dow to sample on its own property?
4. Why hasn't the LDEQ obtained e-mails and other correspondence from Dow concerning these problems? If they had, it is public record for us to review.
5. Why has LDEQ continued to allow Dow to use outdated underground piping to transport cancer causing products like Vinyl Chloride Monomer without adequate testing for leakage?
6. Does Dow even maintain proper procedures for pipeline testing to detect if they have been leaking VCM?
7. How much money has Dow saved by ignoring this historical groundwater contamination?
8. Have any LDEQ employees been accepting any measure of graft from Dow, as has been reported in Livingston Parish, in an effort by Dow to discourage proper enforcement?

9. Why hasn't Dow dug deep enough to properly measure the extent of contamination on its own property, and why hasn't the LDEQ forced Dow's hand on this issue?

These are only some of the issues in this case that may eventually end up as crimes under the Clean Water Act, RCRA and Right to Know laws. The public wants answers in this case, and frankly, we need your help. I have spoken with the District Attorney in Iberville Parish, Ricky Ward, and he said he has opened a criminal probe in this matter. This is a good start, however, we hope that both your offices will also get involved. We believe that EPA-Criminal Investigations division will find out definitively whether or not criminal conduct occurred, and that the U.S. Attorney's office and EPA-CID will not be swayed by any local politics that may arise during the prosecution of such crimes. It is a sad time we live in when the only untouchable agencies we can rely upon to protect our natural resources are those in criminal enforcement. We hope that all three of your offices can work together, and make those who would poison the waters of our area rue the day they ever decided they could place profits above public health.

Thank you for giving this your consideration. I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

Marylee M. Orr  
Executive Director