

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

February 3, 1995

Ms. Carol Browner, Administrator
U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency
401 M Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Browner:

We are writing about a matter of grave concern to our constituents in northern Wisconsin and Minnesota. As you know, from 1959 to 1962, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dumped into Lake Superior barrels of production waste generated at the Honeywell, Inc. plant in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

We have recently received a copy of the EPA's 1989 preliminary assessments of the over 1,400 barrels of waste. According to these documents, EPA considers it a possibility that the barrels may contain PCBs, some VOCs, heavy metals and possibly even some uranium.

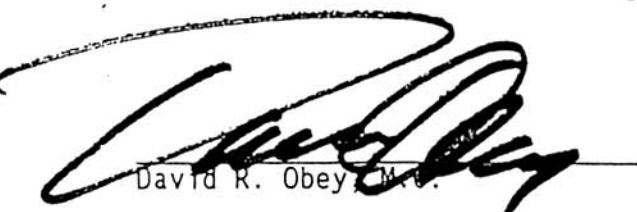
As you know, a number of shoreline communities in Wisconsin and Minnesota draw their drinking water from Lake Superior. Some of these dump sites for the barrels are according to EPA's preliminary assessment, perilously close to the intake pipes for some of these communities.


Since this situation involves the health of residents of the communities which draw their water from the Lake, we would respectfully request that EPA follow up on their initial review and determine the contents of the barrels. We would also ask whether or not the EPA intends to require the Army Corps and/or Honeywell to remove the barrels from the lakebed.

In addition, we would also request that the EPA monitor the sites for any radioactivity and that this monitoring not be limited to the very few barrels which the Army Corps of Engineers brought to the surface last summer. We also believe that it is imperative that the EPA release all information pertaining to the barrels, their contents and handling to our offices.

Because this issue has a number of our constituents concerned, your prompt response would be appreciated.

Sincerely,


David R. Obey, M.C.


James L. Oberstar, M.C.