

May 25, 2004

Honorable Erin Crotty
Commissioner
New York Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-1011

Honorable Jane M. Kenny
Regional Administrator
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
290 Broadway
New York, NY 10007-1866

Antonia C. Novello, MD
NY State Health Commissioner
Corning Tower
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237

Honorable Carolyn Peterson
Mayor of Ithaca
Green Street
Ithaca, NY 14850

Greetings:

Trichloroethylene (TCE) and other toxic solvents in groundwater at Emerson Power Transmission (EPT, New York Site Code: 7-55-010, Federal Site Code: NYD002228625) have reportedly far exceeded state and federal clean up requirements for nearly 17 years. We, the undersigned, write to urge you to investigate and clean up this problem without further delay.

TCE contamination was reportedly identified at EPT in 1987. TCE in groundwater was monitored up to 1,100,000 parts per billion (ppb) in 1989. TCE was monitored most recently up to 28,000 ppb in November 2003. The clean up requirement for TCE in groundwater is five ppb.

In 1991, the New York State Department of Health monitored indoor air at a total of 14 homes near EPT, including four homes monitored as controls to determine background levels. Solvent concerns were identified in four homes.

New York's 1994 Record of Decision (ROD) determined: "Actual or threatened release of hazardous waste constituents from this site, if not addressed by implementing the response action selected in this ROD, presents a current or potential threat to public health and the environment."

During nearly eight years of operation, the remedial system required by the ROD has removed approximately 16 gallons of TCE. For nearly ten years, EPT has failed to complete the soil gas vapor study required by the ROD.

Given these serious shortcomings, we respectfully request that you:

1. Hold a meeting to update the public about your efforts to clean up the EPT site;
2. Require EPT to provide full disclosure of its historic waste dumping practices pursuant to state and federal law;
3. Revise EPT's State Site Classification from #4 ("Site is properly closed -- requires continued management") to #2 ("Significant threat to the public health or environment -- action required.")
Revise EPT's Federal Classification of No Further Remedial Action Planned. Require comprehensive investigation and clean up of EPT's pollution problems;
4. Conduct an indoor air quality study for TCE and other EPT pollutants in all homes on or within 1,500 feet of pollution-impacted areas;
5. Conduct a health study of current and previous residents who lived in the vicinity of EPT's pollution problems;
6. Install air pollution control systems to safeguard homes and buildings determined to be impacted or threatened by EPT pollution
7. Conduct a health evaluation of current and previous residents who live or lived in the vicinity of EPT's pollution problems;
8. Provide a written response to this letter to all of the people who have signed this letter.

Respectfully,