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## July 14, 1983 memo about Furley, Kansas

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Steph FYI

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

July 14, 1983

To: Dan, Connie, Myrne and Carl  
From: Curt *CS*  
RE: Furley Hearing (Official line on purpose of the hearing)

The Committee on Science and Technology and its Subcommittee on Natural Resources, Agriculture Research and Environment is currently reviewing current technologies and management strategies for hazardous waste control.

In that regard, the NRARE has been conducting a number of field hearings of hazardous waste sites around the country to determine the proper course of future action, and the proper federal role with regard to hazardous waste disposal.

Of particular interest to the Science and Technology Committee is a recent study by the Office of Technology Assessment on land disposal sites, such as the Furley site.

The O.T.A. study found that "Current monitoring practices and EPA requirements under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA), especially for land disposal sites, do not lead to a high degree of confidence that hazardous releases will be detected and responsive action quickly taken."

OTA also found that "States are being given increasing responsibilities by EPA without matching technical and financial resources," and that "Federal programs indirectly provide more incentive for land disposal than for treatment alternatives that permanently remove risks."

Since the Congress is currently in the process of reauthorizing the RCRA Act of 1976, the Committee on Science and Technology intends to expedite its work on these kind of issues.

In short, the NRARE Subcommittee indicates that Furley is a good "case study" site and is fairly typical of the kinds of problems being experienced all over the country at landfill hazardous waste disposal sites.

NRARE is considering whether or not "landfills" are technologically obsolete, and whether or not federal law should be changed to encourage a better disposal method.

Also, Furley seems to be a good example of how some hazardous waste sites "fall through the cracks" of current federal and state environmental programs. NRARE will seek to determine if federal law should be tightened up to clarify federal and state responsibilities.

Steph

**COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515**

**FURLEY HAZARDOUS WASTE LANDFILL HEARING**

Hazardous Waste Management and Disposal Strategies

August 1, 1983            9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Wichita City Commission Hearing Room  
Wichita City Hall 455 N. Main St.

o OBJECTIVES OF THE HEARING

- (1) To examine the extent of environmental contamination caused by hazardous wastes from the Furley Landfill.
- (2) To explore the monitoring, studies, and research needed to ameliorate or reverse the environmental contamination.
- (3) To review the actions necessary to prevent future contamination, including research to determine if there is scientific analysis sufficient to justify reopening of the Furley Landfill.

o TENTATIVE WITNESS LIST

- (1) Morris Kay, Regional EPA Administrator
- (2) Barbara Sabol, Director of Kansas Department of Health & Environment
- (3) Mrs. Sharilyn Dienst, Furley citizen activist
- (4) Professor Robert Berg, Wichita State University Geology Department
- (5) Mike Everhart, Director of Environmental Quality, Wichita-Sedgwick County
- (6) Frank Wilson, Senior Geologist, Kansas Geological Survey
- (7) Representative from Waste Management, Inc.
- (8) Possibly a representative from EPA Headquarters & other experts

o BACKGROUND

- o Hearing is being conducted by the Subcommittee on Natural Resources, Agriculture Research and Environment (chaired by Congressman Scheuer (D-NY) at the request of Congressman Dan Glickman. The NRARE Subcommittee has jurisdiction over all research and development done by EPA as well as oversight jurisdiction.
- o At this hearing, the NRARE Subcommittee will seek to determine what assistance the EPA can provide, and what the proper role of the federal government should be with regard to state environmental programs. There will be no attempt to blame anyone for the current situation, only to determine what should be done now with regard to the Furley Landfill.
- o The hearing will be conducted from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., then break for lunch. A site visit at the Furley Landfill will be planned for the afternoon, if time permits.
- o Jim Greene from the NRARE Subcommittee is putting the hearing together with Curt Stanford's assistance. Jim and Curt will arrive in Wichita Thursday night, July 28, 1983; finalize the details Friday July 29th.

Furley Hazardous Waste Landfill

Wichita, Kansas August 1, 1983

- June Background investigation conducted  
Hearing objectives finalized. Potential witness list submitted to NRARE
- July Potential witnesses interviewed by phone - Witness list finalized
- 7-14 Witness letters mailed out. Point of contact is Jim Greene with NRARE Subcommittee and Myrne Roe or Carl Jarrett in Glickman's Wichita office.
- 7-20 Glickman news release announcing hearing goes out (Connie & Curt)  
NRARE Subc. news release goes out with Glickman quote. Jim, Curt & Connie)  
Also send out notification to KS environmental groups (Curt)
- 7-25 Backup or "rain day" hearing room arranged for Saturday July 30th just in case the House is in session Monday, August 1st.
- 7-28 Jim Greene and Curt arrive in Wichita. (NRARE Subc. will make arrangements for travel and hotel for Members of Congress at either Holiday Inn or Wichita Royale.)
- 7-29 Jim, Curt & Carl make final contacts with witnesses, gather written testimony, prepare questions for Members to ask, put together packets for Members including briefing memo, Furley background, testimony, questions, most of which will already be prepared. Also prepare press packets if appropriate.
- 8-1 8:00 a.m. prepare hearing room, take over all materials for hearing.  
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 Hearing  
1:00 p.m. Lunch  
2:00 p.m. Curt will have Van (11 people capacity) available if site visit to can be arranged and if Members have time to do this mostly for  
4:00 p.m. the "photo opportunity" value.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

FURLEY HAZARDOUS WASTE LANDFILL HEARING IN WICHITA

POTENTIAL WITNESSES

- ~~WOLZ~~
- ~~Governor John Carlson  
Capital Building  
Topeka, Kansas 66601  
(913) 296-3232~~
- ~~aged Furley Landfill on 11-18-87  
after discovery of hazardous chemical  
in groundwater~~
- ✓ • Mr. Morris Kay <sup>plus his expert</sup>  
Regional E.P.A. Administrator  
Eleven-Oak Building - 16th Floor  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106  
(816) 374-5493
  - ✓ • Ms. Barbara Sabol, Director  
Kansas Department of Health and  
Environment  
6700 S. Topeka Blvd.  
Topeka, Kansas 66620  
(913) 862-9360
  - ✓ • Mrs. Sharilyn Dienst  
Rural Route 1  
Benton, Kansas 67217  
(316) 778-1029
  - ✓ • Professor Robert Berg  
Geology Department - Box 27  
Wichita State University  
Wichita, Kansas 67208  
(316) 689-3140
  - ✓ • Mr. Mike Everhart  
Director of Environmental Quality  
Wichita-Sedgwick County Health Dept.  
1900 East 9th St.  
Wichita, Kansas 67214  
(316) 268-8391
  - ✓ • Mr. Frank Wilson  
Senior Geologist  
Kansas Geological Survey  
University of Kansas  
1930 Constant Avenue  
Lawrence, Kansas 66044  
(913) 864-4991
  - ✓ • ~~Mr. Don Reddicliffe~~  
Waste Management, Inc.  
(Address unknown)
- Has accused KS Dept. of Health and Environment of ignoring EPA recommendations and withholding contamination information from the regional EPA office
- Has accused regional EPA of refusing their request for assistance in determining extent and nature of hazardous waste contamination
- Lives near Furley Landfill. Is an articulate activist on the issue. Pushed for groundwater tests which revealed hazardous waste contamination.
- Critic of Furley site. Says the geology of the site is not suited for a landfill
- Involved in testing for groundwater contamination at Furley Landfill site
- Critic of the way that groundwater testing has been conducted. Says they haven't drilled deep enough and haven't looked in the right places
- Spokesman for the owners of the Furley Hazardous Waste Landfill

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Furley, Kansas Hazardous Waste Landfill  
(owned by Chemical Waste Management, Inc.)

- 1977 Furley Hazardous Waste Landfill opened
- Wastes dumped include mercury, paraquat, acetic acid, dyes, chlorine bleach, food coloring, gasoline, metals, alcohols, vinyl chloride, methylene chloride,
- 1980 Chemical Waste Inc. proposes expansion of site
- Fall 1980 Kansas Attorney General orders independent investigation of Furley Landfill site. Kansas Geological Survey conducts study raises questions about the acceptability of site resulting in postponement of decision
- Fall 1981 Tests show that small amounts of chemicals had reached a spring near Prairie Creek (which flows into the Arkansas River)
- January 1982 Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) tests discover large amounts of chemicals had contaminated ground water near the site.
- January 1982 Furley Landfill closed by Governor Carlin
- Spring 1982 Chemical Waste Management Inc. submits plan to identify problems, clean up and expand current facilities at landfill
- Fall 1982 Chemical Waste Management Inc submits proposal to clean-up landfill and requests reopening of site.
- January 1983 KDHE Director Harkin replaced by Barbara Sabol
- March 1983 KDHE Secretary Sabol directs KDHE staff to develop independent clean-up plan rather than respond to Chemical Waste Management plan, and removes staff criticized as being too protective of industry from management of Furley clean-up.
- April 1983 Wichita Eagle-Beacon newspaper article discloses summer 1982 study that found that ground water contamination is spreading rapidly to new areas south of the landfill (moving toward Wichita)
- April 1983 Regional EPA officials complain that they had not been made aware of the new contamination. Sen. Dole asks EPA to conduct an independent investigation of Furley and audit KDHE use of federal funds.
- (Chemical Waste Management Inc must submit application for new license by September 10, 1983.)
- May 1983 KDHE complains that EPA refused to assist state by inspecting the landfill and reviewing their files as requested.  
EPA criticizes KDHE for ignoring their recommendations and withholding data