

Senate subcommittee on Toxic Substances & Chemical Wastes

Marie Pozniak

Resident of the Love Canal Area

May 3, 1979

My name is Marie Pozniak, I reside with my family on Colvin Boulevard, the Love Canal area of Niagara Falls, New York. I live two houses from the last boarded up house and I have lived there for the last eight years. The last year has been one filled with confusion and stress due to the mishandling of the situation.

I would like to address the issue of what can be done to prevent future occurrences such as the Love Canal. However, I would like to express the necessity to identify, monitor and clean up all dump sites both open and festering and those buried and forgotten ticking away as public health time bombs. It is not too late to stop what will in time be a irreversible situation. If any further dumping is allowed future generations will suffer irreparable damage.

We need to immediately pass laws and form agencies who can and will take on the responsibilities of finding and cleaning up these dump sites.

From my own experience living in the Love Canal area I have watched the New York State Health Department as well as some Federal agencies avoid issues so that they would not have to take and responsibility or set any precedents.

Example: New York Governor Hugh Carey, at a public meeting made the statement that if people in the houses not immediately evacuated had health problems and air tests showed contamination they would be relocated permanently. The State Health Department air test did in fact show chemicals to present in my home. On the advise of two different doctors I submitted the records of my nine year old daughter, who has an asmatic condition, to the Health Department for review. They said it would take a week. The United Way Agency upon seeing the two doctors statements

immediately acted and provided accommodations so that she would not be further exposed to the chemical vapors. Then for nine weeks the State Health Department kept saying a few more days would be needed and then a few more. I then received a certified letter in the mail as did 54 other families who had requested relocation, that the remedial construction would not hurt her. As I did not intend to have her employed on the construction crew I thought the letter ridiculous and insulting. I had to ask myself, had they even looked at her records? If they had, they would have had to agree with her two doctors who treat her and know her history, that further exposure would be harmful to her well-being. After having her live away from her home and family for five months, during which time she had only a sore throat. We were forced to bring her home late in December of 1978 due to finances. She became ill immediately and has had to take many varied prescriptions to try to control the problems. The State Health Department's action in the Love Canal area clearly shows they can not handle this job efficiently and objectively.

These state and local governments are the same people who will be handling the future dump sites and I am fearful if they handle them the way they they have handled the Love Canal, the ecology as a whole will be ruined!

Industry has been getting away with too much, for too long. We can no longer as citizens afford to pay the price of their doing business. The health and safety of our friends, ourselves and our families is too high a price to pay. It is up to the citizens here today as well as you our Senators and Assemblymen to avoid future dump site disasters. Implement laws NOW to stop negligent polluters, fine them, take the profit out of polluting and protect our health and environment before it is completely destroyed. Maybe

incineration is the answer, as the Love Canal has shown that secure land fills are not the answer.

We will long be remembered for our fight for clean air, water and most important clean and safe homes. It started in our small community and has grown and spread across our nation. We now have millions of people backing our struggle. Teachers, clergy, environmental groups, unions and more are actively involved. The Love Canals remaining victims, do not have to remain victims. The laws that are passed could and should morally include them.

Gentlemen go back to Washington and tell your peers, the Love Canal people and our children, who are the future of America demand immediate action on our disaster, man made, but still a disaster because our homes are destroyed, as well as the health of us and our children by chemical contamination. Pass the needed laws and set a precedent and help the victims of the Love Canal.

WILLIAM J. McMAHON, M. D.  
Diseases of Infants & Children  
513 3rd ST.  
NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y. 14301  
Telephone 284-5046

August 22, 1978

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN :

Re: Pozniak, Kimberly  
Age: 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  yrs.

The above named is an asthmatic and is now under a desensitization program for same.

Any pungent odors or fumes will be detrimental to her physical well being.

Sincerely,

*W J McMahon MD*  
Wm. J. McMahon, M.D.

WJM :epm

*Child needs immediate  
evacuation because  
of severe asthmatic  
condition.*

*(wall being drilled  
across from house)*

NORMAN B. RICHARD, M.D.  
1077 DELAWARE ROAD  
KENMORE, N. Y. 14223  
873-3337

*Pediatric Allergy*

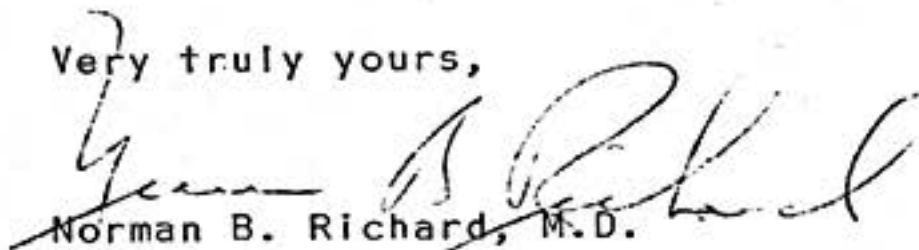
August 25, 1978

To Whom It May Concern

RE: Kim Pozniak

Kim suffers from bronchial asthma. Continued exposure to noxious fumes and vapors may be deleterious to her respiratory status. Therefore, she should be removed from such an environment.

Very truly yours,

  
Norman B. Richard, M.D.

NBR/ss

1002 Colwin Blvd - Toluene 18  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Temp. Relocation up Wed 8/30/78

11-28-78 air sample  
Chloroform 3  
Benzene 11  
trichloroethene 2  
toluene 38  
tetrachloroethene 2