

# HISTORY OF DISASTER AT LOVE CANAL

## CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS - PART II

Events integral to the problems of chemical and hazardous wastes in the Ecumenical Task Force service area and ETF's response are highlighted in the following chronology. "A History of Disaster - Chronology of Events" from 1836 to July 31, 1980 is summarized in the 1980 Progress Report of the ETF.

August 1, 1980

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that 20 organic chemicals and several toxic metals were detected in the blood of some Love Canal residents. Blood tests were a companion to an earlier chromosome study. Although 20 of the chemicals and all of the metals were found in the blood of some of the residents, the levels "are below those values at which acute toxic effects occur", according to an E.P.A. statement. "It is not possible to state what potential the Love Canal residents tested have for experiencing oncogenic (cancer) teratogenic (birth defects) or reproductive effects", the EPA statement said.

August 1, 1980

A \$50,000 grant announced this week to the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) will allow for completion of a study started in June on growth and maturation rates among Love Canal children.

August 1, 1980

Dioxin identified in sewers leading from the Love Canal directly into the Niagara River. State officials said they took 6 samples in the sewer lines south of Read Ave. and found 3 with levels of dioxin under 29 parts per billion, 2 with levels of 120 parts per billion (ppb) and one with 312 ppb. That compares with samples from Black Creek with a level of 31 ppb.

August 5, 1980

State officials formally told Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that the offer of a \$15,000,000, 30-year loan to resettle Love Canal families was unacceptable.

August 5, 1980 Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency (LCARA) appointed earlier to purchase Love Canal homes with federal and state funds and provide for revitalization of the neighborhood, established a "priorities committee to determine the order in which families will be relocated".

LCARA authorized Mayor O'Laughlin to choose an Acting Director, set up an office in the Love Canal neighborhood and set an October deadline for appointment of a permanent director. LCARA asked the State of New York to have a property acquisition team ready to move in when State and Federal officials agree on funding.

August 5, 1980 Center for Disease Control (CDC), Atlanta, Georgia sends team on-site to begin its two-level health testing. Telephone contacts to set up interviews.

August 6, 1980 *ETF presentation to St. James Lutheran Church in Bergholtz, "On-Going Needs at Love Canal".*

August 6, 1980 The first 10 of approximately 175 Love Canal families being housed and fed in area motels notified that their benefits have been terminated because of their failure to seek more permanent housing in apartments

August 6, 1980 State authorities discovered abnormal quantities of radioactive Cesium-137 in 99th St. School yard soil.

August 12, 1980 *ETF accepted a request for an internship for social work student, Edward Smith, from Niagara University during 1980-81 academic year.*

August 14, 1980 Love Canal residents picket Democratic Convention in New York City.

August 17, 1980 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to make 150 Section 8 certificates available to renters of low income housing units (LaSalle Development) who want to leave Love Canal neighborhood.

August 18, 1980 EPA testing of air, soil and water started in Love Canal.

August 22, 1980 State and Federal officials reach accord in relocation funding.

August 24, 1980 Hooker Chemicals and Plastics Corp. holds Open House for community in attempt to offset adverse publicity.

- August 24, 1980 Dr. Barry Commoner, biologist and presidential candidate for Liberal Party visits Love Canal
- August 27, 1980 LCARA voted to give residents three years to sell their homes. LCARA voted to seek "clarification" from State Task Force Director, William C. Hennessey, on the availability of 3% mortgages to help residents buy new homes. LCARA moved to contract with New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) to handle Love Canal home acquisitions.
- LCARA approved 12-member priorities committee. LCARA appointed Richard Morris, a career DOT official, as temporary Executive Director of the Agency.
- LCARA set up office at 1003-98th St., across Colvin Boulevard from the northern end of the canal proper.
- September 1, 1980 Diane Sheley joined the staff of ETF as Family and Neighborhood Services Coordinator after serving as volunteer social worker for ETF for three months.
- September 7, 1980 Niagara County District Attorney's office orders probe into contracts awarded for the first phase of Love Canal remedial work.
- September 8, 1980 State Assembly Task Force hearings held in Buffalo to investigate reported United States military chemical/radioactive waste dumping in Love Canal.
- September 10, 1980 Federal Judge ordered that N.Y. State be made a plaintiff, rather than a defendant in the Federal Government's \$124 million suit against Hooker Chemicals and Plastic Corp. and others.
- September 13, 1980 Annual city audit revealed today that Love Canal lawsuit claims against the city government have grown from \$3 billion to \$16 billion during the last year.
- September 15, 1980 The U.S. House of Representatives begins debate this week on legislation designed to establish a \$1.2 billion "Superfund" to clean up abandoned hazardous chemical dumps such as Love Canal.
- September 17, 1980 Sisters Margeen, Joan Malone, and Rosalie Bertell present program at D'Youville College entitled, "Religious Women Involved in the Human Concerns, Problems of Love Canal and West Valley".
- ETF presentation to Fayetteville United Methodist Church regarding Love Canal.



- September 19, 1980 The House of Representatives voted to establish two \$375 million "superfunds" over the next five years to deal with oil and chemical spills into the nation's waterways.
- September 20, 1980 *Members of ETF attend initial meeting of "Oxy" Shadow Board in New York City.*
- September 22, 1980 *ETF presentation at National Conference of Catholic Charities in Rochester, N.Y. Presenters: Rev. Wm. J. O'Connell, John A. Lynch, Sister Margeen.*
- September 23, 1980 House of Representatives passes \$1.2 billion "Superfund" to finance the nationwide cleanup of abandoned toxic waste sites.
- September 23, 1980 *Donna Ogg presented an opening statement on behalf of the ETF at the CECOS Hearings. Text of the statement gave the theological basis for our concern for human life, as well as protection of our soil, water and air.*
- September 25, 1980 *Eleanor Conmy of the Sabre Park Peoples' Association attended ETF Executive Board Meeting to enlighten the Board on the Chemical and Environmental Conservation Systems (CECOS) problem. ETF voted to cooperate with the Sabre Park Association.*
- September 30, 1980 *Gibson Roberts Zimba of Zambia, the Zambian Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, along with journalists from the Dominican Republic, Nepal and government officials from Sierra Leone, Egypt and Swaziland visit Love Canal.*
- October 1, 1980 *President Carter and Governor Carey sign the State/Federal relocation agreement at Niagara Falls International Convention Center. Sr. Margeen, ETF Executive Director, attends.*
- The Niagara Falls Board of Education approved a measure allowing the Federal Government to use a portion of the 93rd St. School property for environmental testing at the Love Canal.
- October 3, 1980 *Residents of LaSalle Development, low income housing at Love Canal, angered over being left out of \$20 million State and Federal Agreement.*
- Report by Stephen Lester of Clement Associates, Inc., consulting firm hired by NYS to advise Love Canal Homeowners' Association, stated that workers taking part in the remedial program at Love Canal site were sometimes needlessly exposed to danger, and government response to the chemical contamination problem was not adequate.*

- October 5, 1980      *ETF presentation at St. Peter's Church in Lockport.*
- October 6, 1980      *Residents of LaSalle Development notified ETF of possible riot ensuing over residents being left out of \$20 million State/Federal agreement. ETF in turn contacted New York State Assemblyman Arthur Eve and requested his help in negotiations with State and Federal officials. Assemblyman Eve met with residents and members of ETF Executive Board and staff until 1:30 AM and were successful in averting a riot. Subsequent action by Assemblyman Eve guaranteed \$500,000 being allocated for moving expenses of residents.*
- October 7, 1980      *An investigation into remedial work at the southern end of the Love Canal has apparently prompted the Federal Government to hold up payment of \$4 million in project reimbursements to the City of Niagara Falls.*
- October 7, 1980      *ETF Executive Board voted to go on record as being opposed to further expansion of any hazardous waste chemical and radioactive dumpsites in the Niagara Frontier.*
- October 8, 1980      *Sister Margeen presented a prepared statement for the record at CECOS hearings expressing concern for emotional and psychological trauma that could result from the proposed expansion of this NYS licensed toxic waste "secure landfill". This is the first time that Permit Hearings of N.Y. Department of Environmental Conservation have admitted testimony concerning emotional and psychological effects on persons.*
- October 9, 1980      *Four African Journalists toured Niagara County's hazardous waste disposal firms and voiced the hope their countries will be able to learn from America's problems when they begin to industrialize.*
- October 9, 1980      *The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) refused today to offer special low-interest mortgage loans to Love Canal families to buy replacement houses elsewhere.*
- SCA Chemical Waste Services, the second NYS licensed toxic waste operation in NYS - both of which are located in Niagara County - received its court-ordered permit for construction of its 5-mile waste pipeline to the Niagara River.*
- A Blue Ribbon Panel of physicians appointed by Governor Carey leveled severe criticism at bungling of Love Canal health and environment studies and said there is no conclusive evidence of adverse health effects there.*

- October 10, 1980 *ETF Executive Board and Staff played host to members of the United Methodist National Church Agencies. The purpose of the consultation was to provide an on-site evaluation of the problems at Love Canal and other environmental hazards in Niagara County. As a result of this day, the ETF received a further grant of \$10,000. to be used for Direct Aid to Love Canal residents.*
- October 13, 1980 *ETF staff members met with Assemblyman Eve, New York State officials and representatives of LaSalle Development residents at the State Office Building in Buffalo, N.Y. Purpose of the meeting was to discuss special problems experienced by the residents in trying to locate adequate housing. As a result of this meeting, New York State entered into a 30month contract with Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME) and Housing Assistance Center (HAC) to provide an on-site office with personnel available on a daily basis to assist the residents.*
- October 23, 1980 *The Executive Board of the Ecumenical Task Force in recognizing the dichotomies which exist between residents of the Love Canal requested the Executive Director to prepare a statement expressing the need for the Love Canal Revitalization Agency to address the issue of the future use of the Love Canal neighborhood. This statement was presented by Sister Margeen at the LCARA public meeting offering ETF assistance in carrying out responsible action in the future in whatever way most appropriate.*
- October 24, 1980 *President Carter announced he would ask Congress for a special \$3.8 million appropriation to fund health studies of Love Canal residents, which will be carried out by the State University of Buffalo Medical School and Center for Disease Control.*
- Lockport, N.Y., Landfill found to be leaking toxins into area groundwater.*
- October 28, 1981 *ETF Board toured CECOS Landfill Facility.*
- ETF Executive Board accepted with regret the resignation of Rev. Charles Lamb.*
- ETF accepted with pleasure, Rev. Richard Donoughue, representative of the Lutheran Church in America, as member of Executive Board.*



- October 30, 1980 Vice-Presidential candidate, Patrick Lucey, met with ETF Board members, staff, and volunteers for briefing on Love Canal work of ETF. He was given a tour of the Love Canal area by John Lynch and Donna Ogg, and met with residents at Wesley United Methodist Church in Love Canal.
- November 5, 1980 Federal environmental officials stated that the Love Canal treatment facility is "satisfactorily filtering out chemical contaminants contained in the leachate" from Love Canal. Sludge stored in holding tanks, however, reveals Dioxin (TCDD) in the low parts-per billion range.
- November 14, 1980 First two homes in Love Canal boundary area purchased by LCARA.
- November 18, 1980 ETF presentation at Holy Ghost Lutheran PTA meeting in Bergholtz.
- November 19, 1980 New federal regulations in effect today to monitor toxic material handling from "cradle to grave" in "properly suited" approved landfill or disposal site. (Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA))
- N.Y.S. charges that chemical wastes at the S-Area Landfill and the 102nd. Street ~~deposits~~ are two of the four landfills in Niagara County for which Hooker is charged in lawsuit by U.S. Justice Department and New York State.
- November 20, 1980 Canada's Parliament is considering a request today that the government seek a full-scale inquiry by the United States into toxic contamination of the Niagara River.
- N.Y.S. legislative aides stated this week that a search of old federal records indicates that TNT wastes may still be under thousands of acres at the Lake Ontario Ordinance Works (LOOW) in Lewiston. This announcement led both Canadian and U.S. lawyers to demand the reopening of the SCA Chemical Waste Services, Inc. Permit Hearings to expand a toxic disposal site. The attorneys claim the site overlies the pipes containing TNT.
- November 21, 1980 ETF presentation to UPCUSA Synod of the Northeast and tour of Love Canal.
- November 22, 1980 Lois Gibbs announced Love Canal Homeowners Association will end their five-month boycott of health studies.
- November 24, 1980 Senate approved a \$1.6 billion hazardous waste cleanup, "Superfund", which will do nothing to compensate individual victims.

- November 25, 1980 NYS DEC ordered to prove it was not in error when it determined last July that CECOS had properly completed its application for permits to construct and operate two new hazardous waste landfills in the Town of Niagara.
- Town of Niagara Board passed a new ordinance to control landfill operations.
- ETF accepted with pleasure, Mrs. Joann Breitsman, as Presbyterian representative on the Executive Board.*
- December 3, 1980 U.S. House of Representatives today approved a \$1.6 billion "Superfund" bill to cover the cost of cleaning up abandoned hazardous chemical waste dumpsites and spills that get into navigable water or ground water.
- The approved bill does not call for the payment of any medical expenses or lost earnings suffered by victims of hazardous waste.
- December 3, 1980 Toronto Ontario Globe and Mail carried an article stating, "The Niagara Falls area is the most environmentally contaminated in North America, and scientists now believe they have found its toxic wastes as far away as Toronto and Kingston (Ontario, Canada) "
- December 4, 1980 Niagara Falls Board of Education passed a resolution to ask E.P.A. and the N.Y.S. Health Department to investigate allegations of contamination in sewer system running under LaSalle Senior High School.
- Article in Niagara Gazette revealed how Hooker Chemical was given permission by NYS DEC to temporarily exceed its State Air Quality permit limitations from its incinerator over a four-month period in 1979. During this period, Hooker incinerated dioxin tainted leachate from Love Canal and later from another Hooker dump, the Hyde Park Landfill.
- December 10, 1980 *Ecumenical Task Force provided a Christmas Open House for residents of Love Canal. Approximately 70 children attended and visited with Santa and Mrs. Claus.*
- A representative from Citizens Against Dumping visited the ETF office seeking advice on how to prevent the development of a disposal site in Amherst, N.Y.*



- December 12, 1981 Niagara Falls Waste Water Treatment Plant begins processing sewage for the first time in more than two years. (Activated carbon beds ruptured at the plant more than two years ago, forcing the city to pump millions of gallons of partially treated sewage into the river which has 60% of the chemicals removed with the help and cooperation of the pretreatment done by the chemical plants in the city.)
- December 12, 1980 Love Canal Homeowners' Association announced today that they will close their present office on January 15th., hoping to re-establish at a later date elsewhere.
- December 17, 1980 Congress refused to pass \$3.8 million health study bill.
- Richard Morris named permanent Executive Director of Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency (LCARA).
- ETF Executive Assistant, Donna Ogg, attended Hazardous Waste Management Conference, Albany, N.Y. - a conference designed to encourage conversation between government, industry, environmentalists. (Question: Should not "church" be a participant in future conferences of this sort in order to present theological perspective?)*
- December 18, 1980 Niagara Falls Community Development Department filed a supplemental grant application for \$6.5 million in Federal money for continued Love Canal land acquisition and support.
- Sister Margeen gave presentation on Love Canal to the National Catholic Disaster Relief Committee at the O'Hare Inn, Chicago, Illinois.*
- December 19, 1980 1980 Editorial in Niagara Gazette revealed testimony to the House Commerce Oversight and Investigations Committee in Washington this week which alleged that organized crime is becoming involved in the waste-disposal business.
- December 20, 1980 1980 State Department of Environmental Conservation announced plans to close down the Niagara County Landfill in the Town of Lockport in one year. The 27.5 acre landfill has been found to be leaking toxic chemicals into the water table.
- Hooker Chemical has applied for a Federal permit to burn 200 tons a year of hazardous chemicals from the Hyde Park Landfill at its Niagara Falls incinerator.

- December 21, 1980 Editorial in Niagara Gazette revealed that N.Y.S. Health Department and Department of Environmental Conservation have promised to look into charges that leachate from the CECOS International, Inc. site at 56th. St. and Pine Avenue poses a health threat to students at various Niagara Falls schools.
- December 22, 1980 The Niagara Falls City Council has urged to press Niagara County and NYS officials for the creation of an "oversight committee" to stop the continued importation of hazardous and toxic wastes into the area.
- January 5, 1981 Niagara Falls City Council informally agreed to city participation in an "environmental oversight committee" that would be formed by local governments and environmental groups in the area.
- January 6, 1981 EPA revealed today they will not issue a statement as to habitability of Love Canal neighborhood. Test results as promised January 1st. will not be revealed until mid-March.
- January 6, 1981 *Eight Notre Dame University students visited ETF office for orientation to Love Canal as part of their experiential learning program during their semester break. They expressed amazement at the problems faced by persons in neighborhoods potentially exposed to toxic/hazardous waste disposal. One student, who will enter medical school in the Fall, has volunteered to work for the ETF this Summer.*
- January 7, 1981 The Environmental Protection Agency issued new rules requiring every hazardous-waste storage treatment and disposal facility, regardless of size, to buy liability insurance, establish trust funds or bonds, and otherwise guarantee their sites can both be closed down safely and then regularly inspected for 30 years after closure. The rules go into effect in six months.
- January 8, 1981 NYS Environmental Commissioner, Robert F. Flacke, suspends SCA Chemical Waste Services' toxic and hazardous waste disposal operating permits.
- January 9, 1981 Federal Judge John T. Elfrin issued a temporary restraining order overruling the State Department of Environmental Conservation's decision to shut down operations of SCA Chemical Waste Services, Inc.
- January 12, 1981 *ETF Executive Board members and staff held the first of a two-day Annual Evaluation at the Niagara Institute on Niagara-On-The-Lake, Ontario.*

- January 13, 1981 The New York State Environmental Board has voted to require all owners of hazardous-waste dump sites to post bonds as insurance that harmful substances will not leak into the air and ground water after the dumps are permanently closed. Operators of toxic disposal sites also will be required to post bonds against accidental leakage from operating sites, and companies that transport hazardous wastes to the dumps will have to post bond to insure against leaks along the way to disposal site.
- January 13, 1981 LCARA today approved a program to aid renters moving from the Love Canal area that includes relocation expenses and purchase of appliances.
- January 15, 1981 *Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency (LCARA) devoted time at its work session meeting to discuss the long-range future of the Love Canal area. They expressed a desire to review data available from the members of the ETF Scientific/Technical Advisory Board, in order to assess whether ETF's advisors could help LCARA in interpreting test data and making decisions on future use and habitability of the area.*
- ETF accepted second internship for social work student, Ann Druck, from Niagara University during 1980-81 academic year.*
- January 20, 1981 Governor Hugh Carey in his budget message recommended cutting more than \$1.5 million from last year's appropriations to deal with chemical contamination at Love Canal. He also asked for an \$80,000 reduction in State assistance to Niagara Falls.
- January 21, 1981 City Council declined to take part in environmental oversight committee, as previously agreed on January 5, 1981. Reason given was that the Council feared the committee might favor programs the city would object to.
- Russell Hartzler, Chairman Michigan Interfaith Disaster Relief Committee, and member of the Church of The Brethren, visited the ETF office. ETF staff gave him an orientation on the work of the ETF and a tour of the Love Canal area.*



January 31, 1981 NYS Assembly Task Force report reiterates:

- (1) The U.S. Army pumped 37 million gallons of radioactive chemical wastes into the aquifer beneath the Town of Tonawanda, during work on the World War II Manhattan Project.
- (2) Wastes from the Army's TNT plant at the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works in Niagara County were never fully decontaminated, creating the possibility of an explosion on the site. Property now owned by SCA Chemical Wastes Services, Inc.
- (3) The disposal of hazardous waste from Army and government-related chemical production contributed significantly to the contamination of Love Canal.

February 1, 1981 *ETF Executive Board authorized a letter be sent to Dr. Healy, Superintendent of Lewiston-Porter School Board offering our assistance in averting panic among parents and students.*

*ETF Executive Board authorized telegrams to be sent to our legislators, Governor Carey, Commissioner Flacke, Lieutenant Governor Cuomo, and Attorney General Abrams indicating that ETF supports halting all new construction at SCA until potential TNT dangers can be evaluated.*

*ETF Executive Board authorized telegrams to be sent to Department of Energy and all Federal agencies to take immediate appropriate action to determine whether or not TNT is present and follow up with immediate appropriate action if it is present at the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works site.*

February 3, 1981 Five families refused to send their children to classes at Lewiston-Porter School because of their fear of the potential hazard of explosion at the former LOOW site.

*ETF Executive Board accepted with regret the resignation of Mrs. Donna Ogg from staff. Donna will continue on voluntary basis to assist ETF with talks and research.*

February 7, 1981 Rev. James Brewster, ETF Chairman, introduced a statement at the public hearing on the Hyde Park Landfill/Bloody Run Agreement, on behalf of the ETF, supporting the residents in their claim for health studies.

- February 9, 1981 Lewiston Councilman, Alvin Ogg, requested a re-vote on the Town's resolution accepting the proposed settlement on the Hyde Park Landfill/Bloody Run Agreement.
- The Town of Porter Board passed a resolution supporting a State proposed concept to develop high technology hazardous waste treatment facilities in the State outside Niagara and Erie counties.
- February 11, 1981 *LCARA voted to seek the advice of the ETF's Scientific Advisory Board members in determining habitability of the Love Canal community.*
- Sister Margeen Hoffmann and Mrs. Barbara Hanna gave a presentation at LeMoyne College in Syracuse, N.Y.*
- February 12, 1981 The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released today that funds for a \$1 million project to scour deadly dioxin from sewer lines in and around Love Canal have been withdrawn by the U.S. Coast Guard.
- Court of Appeals ruled today that SCA Chemical Waste Services, Inc. may discharge treated chemical wastes into the Niagara River through a five-mile pipeline across the Town of Porter. Discharge is not to begin, however, until April 15th. and is subject to State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) water quality checks.
- February 14, 1981 EPA announced today that environmental test results from Love Canal will be delayed until the end of March.
- February 23, 1981 *ETF Executive Board held the second of its two-day evaluation at the Niagara Institute on Niagara-On-The-Lake, Ontario.*
- February 28, 1981 DEC announced today that close monitoring of toxic chemicals in the Niagara River will begin this Spring.
- March 6, 1981 EPA announced a further delay in test results. Results now expected in mid-April.

March 6, 1981

ETF today received Amicus Curiae (Friend of The Court) status for the forthcoming hearings of the United States of America versus Hooker Chemical and Plastic Corporation, Hooker Chemical Corporation, Occidental Petroleum Investment Corporation, and Occidental Petroleum Corporation.

This Amicus Curiae status is a landmark in the work of an Interfaith Task Force and could be the beginning of our bringing issues of liability, responsibility and justice to bear for the first time in our courts, on the issue of hazardous wastes. It will allow us to bring pertinent information to the Judge and appraise him of issues, and also raise questions that might not otherwise be introduced.

Father Jack Keiffer, S.J., D.Sc., P.E., joined the ETF as a consultant. He will also serve as coordinator of the ETF Scientific/Technical Advisory Board and their work for the Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency.

March 11, 1981

The Reagan Administration's revised budget for fiscal 1982 provides about 20% less money for the cleanup of hazardous wastes sites (Superfund) than had been proposed by the Carter Administration in January.

March 12, 1981

Due to an error in Superfund writing, New York State will not receive credit for the \$25 to \$30 million it has spent on the Love Canal cleanup. As a result, New York will only be able to apply this credit to future work in Love Canal.

March 13, 1981

Through the Direct Aid program of the ETF, in response to the Renters' Association at LaSalle Development, a city-wide problem of utility overages in public housing was uncovered. This led to our advocacy with the Niagara Falls Housing Authority for leniency in payment for renters in public housing and further pursuance of payment for overages through H.E.A.P. (Heat & Energy Assistance Program) grant payment to the Niagara Falls Housing Authority. (As of this date, H.E.A.P. funds have not been paid to the Housing Authority.)

ETF attorney, Barbara Morrison, asked Judge Curtin on behalf of the ETF to turn down the draft now before him for a \$16.5 million-plus contract running 35 to 38 years on the Hyde Park Landfill/Bloody Run.

President Reagan announced the dismissal of EPA Regional Administrator, Charles S. Warren, head of the New York City office.



- March 14, 1981 Center for Disease Control (CDC) ordered the State University of Buffalo Medical School to close its Niagara Falls office on March 31st and mothball the records (see August 5, 1980 entry) because it is becoming increasingly unlikely Congress will release \$3.8 million for planned Love Canal health studies.
- Environmental Conservation Commissioner, Robert F. Flacke, announced that New York State will put a team of inspectors in the Buffalo area starting in July to oversee transportation of hazardous waste into the Niagara Frontier.
- March 19, 1981 *Robin Miller Productions of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, spent the day with ETF staff filming in Love Canal area for the Presbyterian Synod of the Northeast.*
- March 20, 1981 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner, Robert Flacke, today denied a request by CECOS to build two more Niagara County landfills, but he allowed the company to expand an existing one. CECOS was given permission, however, to reapply for the permits and would be required to submit a 10-year plan.
- March 24, 1981 Officials for CECOS International, Inc. requested permission from the Town of Niagara Board to expand a present landfill.
- March 31, 1981 *Sister Margeen made a presentation to members of Operation Clean on how a health study could be developed.*
- March 29, 1981 Mr. John F. Riordan was named today as successor to Bruce Davis as President of the Industrial Chemicals Group of the Hooker Chemical Co., Niagara Falls.
- Lois Gibbs, President of Love Canal Homeowners Association, took up residence in Washington, D.C.
- April 15, 1981 Niagara Gazette reported that the Federal Government apparently plans to reject the City of Niagara Falls application for \$6.5 million to finance eight steps in revitalizing Love Canal area. (See December 18, 1980 entry).

April 22, 1981

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner, Robert Flacke, denied an expansion permit for SCA Chemical Waste Services. Commissioner Flacke said that before the State grants any new landfill permits, companies are going to have to submit 10-year plans showing how they will shift from the burial of contaminants to high-technology destruction.

April 23, 1981

Mr. Masai of Asahi (main newspaper publication of Japan) and Aileen M. Smith, co-author and photographer of Minimata visited ETF office and met with staff and residents re Love Canal and Hyde Park / Bloody Run situation.

April 25, 1981

Sister Margeen and Barbara Hanna made a presentation to the Western New York Conference of the American Lutheran Church in Medina, New York.

April 28, 1981

Sister Margeen and Barbara Hanna made a presentation to the University of Buffalo School of Social Work and also a presentation to the Niagara Deanery at St. John's Episcopal Church, Youngstown, New York.

April 30, 1981

Mrs. Janet Osborn and Ms. Fia Scheyer of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, Boston, Mass, visited the ETF's office and met with members of the Board and Staff regarding the ETF's objectives and the problems of toxic and hazardous chemical wastes in Niagara and Erie County.

The State Power Authority sold 48.7 acres of land to the City of Niagara Falls for a sludge burial site. Sale is contingent upon approval from the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and the State Department of Environmental Conservation for the city to bury the sludge from its wastewater treatment plant in a 28 acre landfill on the southern end of that property. Public hearings will be held.

May 1, 1981

Niagara Falls Mayor Michael O'Laughlin and other city leaders visited Washington today to meet with HUD leaders to push for special aid to renew Love Canal area. (See April 15, 1981 entry).

HUD agreed to allow the city to rework and refine their proposal, cutting the dollar amount and number of priorities.

- May 1, 1981 The Mayor also will have a chance to redefi ne and strengthen his argument that Love Canal qualifies as a disaster area.
- May 4, 1981 *Sister Margeen made a presentation to Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. in Cincinnati.*
- May 6, 1981 The Federal and State Governments filed a joint lawsuit against the City of Niagara Falls to repair its wastewater treatment plant and to stop discharging polluted wastewater into the Niagara River.
- New York State Senate passed a bill which will allow municipalities to hire their own expert to monitor local chemical dumps or treatment centers at the cost of those using the facility.
- May 7, 1981 Vandalism discovered today to SCA Chemical Waste Services, Inc.'s 5-mile waste-discharge pipeline which was to begin tomorrow to discharge the first of some 7 million gallons of detoxified chemical wastes into the Niagara River. Damage estimated at \$50,000 caused by holes punched in the pipeline.
- May 11, 1981 Arson is blamed for two fires at two vacated Love Canal homes.
- May 13, 1981 CECOS International Inc. and Rochester Gas and Electric Co. announced plans to build a sprawling chemical-waste disposal and treatment complex on the shores of Lake Ontario between Rochester and Syracuse.
- May 14, 1981 The LCARA voted to call on the state to remove the green fence that surrounds the Love Canal site and to demolish the first two rings of homes:
- In what was described as a "vote of confidence for the area", the Executive Director of the Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency (LCARA), Richard Morris, announced plans to purchase a home in the Love Canal neighborhood.
- May 15, 1981 *Contract was signed between ETF and LCARA for consulting services by ETF Scientific/ Technical Advisory Board on EPA test results.*



- May 17, 1981      *Sister Margeen with Stan Wirsig, Environmental Management Council, gave a presentation in the Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Lockport concerning "The Human Aspects of Environmental Problems".*
- May 19, 1981      *The Niagara County Legislature agreed to ask State and Niagara Falls officials to include homeowners on Deuro Drive, Mueller Court and Brookhaven Drive in state legislation that awarded others in the designated Love Canal area county, city and school tax rebates. Their motion also asks the Niagara Falls City Assessor to review property assessments on the three streets on the northeastern edge of the Love Canal. (The three streets were excluded in the Emergency Declaration)*
- ETF Executive Board voted to send a communication to Richard Morris, Executive Director of Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency, advising him that his intended move into the Love Canal neighborhood was thought to be premature until habitability is established. At this point, adequate data is not available to declare the neighborhood habitable.*
- May 20, 1981      *United Cerebral Palsy Association and the Association for Retarded Children announced plans to enter into a joint contract to do lawn cutting and maintenance in the Love Canal neighborhood for LCARA.*
- May 22, 1981      *Sister Margeen attended a Press Conference at Oil and Chemical Workers Union where Assemblyman Joseph Pillittere distributed the "Right-to-Know Bill"*
- May 27, 1981      *Sister Margeen, Roger Cook, Diane Sheley, met with Mr. Tom Glair of Association for Retarded Children and Mr. Joseph Mineo of the United Cerebral Palsy Association re the advisability of accepting a contract for lawn maintenance at Love Canal.*
- May 29, 1981      *City of Niagara Falls submitted a revised proposal to HUD for aid for Love Canal in the amount of \$780,000. (See May 1, 1981 entry).*

June 2, 1981

ETF sent an urgent telegram to Governor Hugh Carey, Senator Daniel Moynihan, Senator Alfonse D'Amato, Congressman John LaFalce, Senator John Daly, Assemblyman Matthew Murphy and Assemblyman Joseph T. Pillittere, requesting an immediate release of the EPA air, soil and ground water testing of Love Canal.

Sister Margeen and Sister Joan Malone taped a television program for Person to Person, Channel 29.

June 3, 1981

Love Canal residents temporarily located at Falcon Manor were notified by the Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency that they must vacate the premises by June 30, 1981.

June 5, 1981

Rev. James Brewster and Sister Margeen met with Mayor Michael O'Laughlin, as directed by the Executive Board, to discuss the lack of adequate low income housing available for tenants of Love Canal.

June 6, 1981

Congress has voted to approve \$950,000 to carry out an abridged version of the \$3.8 million Love Canal health study.

Richard Morris, Executive Director of the Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency, announced plans to move into a house in Love Canal on July 1, 1981.

A General Meeting of the ETF was held at First United Methodist Church in Niagara Falls.

ETF Executive Board accepts with regret the resignation of Rev. Bruce Stearns.

June 9, 1981

An apparent second act of sabotage on the SCA Chemical Wastes Services Inc. pipeline was discovered today. (See May 7, 1981 entry).

June 10, 1981

Mr. Paul Argenti and Ms. Eva Lind Schetector of Amos Tuck Business School, Dartmouth, Hanover, New Hampshire, visited the ETF office for orientation on Love Canal and Hyde Park/Bloody Run. Mr. Argenti will prepare a case study for the Business School.

June 11, 1981

The CBS News Magazine, "60 Minutes", came to the Niagara Falls area to do a program on pollution in the Niagara River.

- June 11, 1981 State Health Officials released results of a study they conducted at the Love Canal which shows that residents there faced a higher occurrence of lung cancer than in average neighborhoods nationally.
- June 12, 1981 *The Western New York Conference of the United Methodist Church voted today to abandon the Wesley United Methodist Church in Love Canal as of July 1, 1981.*
- June 15, 1981 Almost three years after the first applications were filed, SCA Chemical Services Inc. opened the valves today, releasing the first liquids through its controversial chemical waste pipeline.
- The Canadian research ship, the Advent, was in the lower Niagara River to monitor the river discharge.
- Of special concern to Canadians is the ability of wastes to dilute with river water before reaching drinking water intakes at Niagara-On-The-Lake, Ontario.
- Aquatic biologists from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation were also on hand with a mobile laboratory to monitor the toxicity of the discharge.
- June 18, 1981 Congressman John LaFalce replied to ETF telegram asking for EPA test results in Love Canal. (See June 2, 1981 entry). "... It now appears as if the environmental assessment will not be released until mid-summer at the earliest. I consider the long delay in releasing their report unconscionable."
- June 22, 1981 *At the request of Mayor Michael O'Laughlin, and responding to the relocation needs of the large low-income families in Love Canal, the ETF presented a housing study to the Niagara Falls City Council. The impact of this study was acceptance of twelve substantially rehabilitated units of scattered site housing. His housing will allow large families, who now feel trapped at Love Canal to relocate.*
- June 23, 1981 *ETF Board member, Sister Joan Malone, OSF, was keynote speaker and Barbara Hanna, ETF Administrative Assistant, participated on a panel discussion for the General Assembly of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Buffalo, New York.*



- June 26, 1981 City of Niagara Falls application for federal money to help renovate the Love Canal area, under HUD's community development program, was denied. (See April 15, 1981 entry).
- June 28, 1981 *ETF Board members and Staff attended the closing "celebration" service at Wesley United Methodist Church. Wesley members "celebrated" the past opportunity of their ministry and the on-going ministry of their members as they join other churches in the area. (See June 12, 1981 entry).*
- July 1, 1981 *The ETF filed a joint Amici Curiae brief with Pollution Probe of Toronto, Ontario and Operation Clean-Niagara, with Federal Judge John T. Curtin, stating the proposed settlement agreement for Hyde Park Landfill is fundamentally defective and unable to accomplish its intended purpose of providing protection for human health and environment. (See March 6, 1981 entry).*
- July 2, 1981 The State Department of Environmental Conservation applied for a \$1 million grant from the U.S. EPA to build a pilot plant, possibly on the Niagara Frontier, to treat wastes from Love Canal.
- July 4, 1981 Three citizen representatives on the Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency protest move by Richard Morris into Love Canal house. They contend Morris should have waited until EPA test results were made public.
- July 8, 1981 Local industry accidentally discharges large quantities of Phenol into the Niagara River.
- July 9, 1981 *ETF issues press release stating its support of the position that neither the LCARA agency director nor anyone else should move into the Love Canal neighborhood until scientific and technical evidence indicates such a move does not jeopardize health, safety or welfare of individuals.*
- July 11, 1981 Results of DEC testing at LaSalle Senior High School shows no particular problem (see December 4, 1980 entry).
- July 16, 1981 The EPA announced it will spend \$4 million in "Superfund" money for a major sewer and creek cleanup project at Love Canal.

- July 16, 1981      *Members of ETF Executive Board attend meeting at John's Hotel Niagara held by New York State Attorney General's office relative to negotiation proceedings between the United States of America and the State of New York against Hooker Chemicals & Plastics Corp., Hooker Chemical Corporation, Occidental Petroleum Investment Corporation, Occidental Petroleum Corporation, and the City of Niagara Falls, New York, dealing with the S-Area Landfill. Marsha Cleveland of the Attorney General's office stated that, "Western New York is designated as a sacrifice area for corporate health".*
- July 17, 1981      *CECOS International Inc. given permission by DEC to proceed with construction of two new landfill sites for toxic chemical wastes at its 100-acre Town of Niagara site. (See March 20, 1981 entry).*
- July 21, 1981      *ETF played host to 12 college students and 3 professors from St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y. Five former Love Canal residents assisted Sr. Margeen in relating the Love Canal events.*
- July 25, 1981      *Sister Margeen presented statement at OSHA/Clean Air Coalition press conference at Tiffit Farms supporting Clean Air Act.*
- July 28, 1981      *In response to Amici Brief of ETF (see July 1, 1981 entry), Hooker Chemicals & Plastics Corporation stated in a Brief filed with Judge Curtin: "That plan cannot be taken seriously, and Hooker will not be voluntarily associated with any remedial effort which includes such a plan."*
- August 5, 1981      *Niagara Gazette article quotes Mayor O'Laughlin, Chairman of Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency, as saying ICARA can no longer wait for the federal government to release its long-delayed report on environmental conditions in the Love Canal area and will begin its renewal planning this month. Mr. O'Laughlin said he envisions the Love Canal area eventually returning to its previous status, a generally residential area consisting mainly of single-family homes.*
- August 6, 1981      *Federal Judge John Curtin announced his decision to schedule a public hearing to air the terms of a proposed settlement in the Hyde Park Landfill lawsuits.*

August 6, 1981

The State University of Buffalo Medical School sought \$1 million from the federal government to maintain a long-term watch on the health of Love Canal residents, but it disclosed today that the bid was rejected.

EPA representatives, Kenneth Stoeller and Dr. John Deegan, announced at a Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency meeting that a \$4 million Superfund-sponsored clean-up of sanitary and storm sewers, Black Creek and Bergholtz Creek, in the Love Canal area will begin in the spring of 1982. The entire program will take two to three years to complete. (See July 16, 1981 entry).

August 8, 1981

Niagara Gazette reported that excavation inside a building at TAM Ceramics, Inc. has led to the discovery of chemical migration from Hyde Park Landfill to the north. Robert Matthews, City Utilities Director, theorized that wastes from the landfill were entering the city sewers through the TAM sewer system.

August 23-25, 1981

*Sister Margeen participated in the North Smithfield Ecology Festival in North Smithfield, Rhode Island.*

*ETF Executive Board votes to assume Intervenor Status in the S-Area suit.*

August 29, 1981

DEC announced that faced with legislative and federal aid cutbacks it has scrapped its program to clean up scores of abandoned toxic waste sites in Erie and Niagara counties. Dropping of the hazardous-waste program comes at a time when the state has identified 150 sites within 3 miles of the Niagara River which potentially could be contributing to toxic contamination of the international waterway.

September 3, 1981

*Ms. Ann Druck and Mr. Vincent Scherber, students in the Niagara University School of Social Work, began their field placement with ETF.*

September 4, 1981

Niagara Gazette reports seven tons of formaldehyde was accidentally discharged into the Niagara River by an area industry. Formaldehyde, usually sold in liquid form blended with methanol - is considered a "moderately dangerous" fungicide that is suspected carcinogenic according to industry experts.

September 8, 1981

*ETF accepted with pleasure, Father Joseph Levesque, Dean of Studies at Niagara University, as an at-large member of the ETF Executive Board.*



September 9, 1981      Hearings commenced in Federal Court on the proposed agreement between the U.S. Justice Department and Hooker Chemicals and Plastics Corp., relative to Hyde Park Landfill/Bloody Run (See August 6, 1981 entry).

September 15, 1981      As we go to press:

The hearings on the proposed settlement agreement between U.S. Justice Department and Hooker Chemicals and Plastic Corporation will continue October 1, 2, 5 and 6th. in U.S. District Court before Judge Curtin.

The EPA test results in the Love Canal area are still not available.

"In adopting SEQR (State Environmental Quality Review Act), it was the Legislature's intention that all agencies conduct their affairs with an awareness that they are stewards of the air, water, land, and living resources, and that they have an obligation to protect the environment for the use and enjoyment of this and all future generations."

Part 617, Adopted Sept. 1, 1978

SEQR Amendment, Dec. 12, 1978

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation