VILLAGE OF SAUGET
SAUGET SANITARY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH ASSOCIATION
ONE AMERICAN BOTTOMS ROAD
SAUGET, ILLINOIS 62201-1075
618/337-1710
FAX 618/337-8919

MEMORANDUM

TO: Messrs. Ray A. Ehrhard
Keith S. Miller
Edward J. Schmidt
Michael W. Stoneberger
Dennis M. Valentino

FROM: George R. Schillinger

DATE: July 30, 1993

SUBJECT: Operation New Spirit Seminar

Enclosed is a copy of a newspaper article on the Operation New Spirit seminar held on July 24. Since you attended the program but probably do not receive the East St. Louis News Journal, a copy is enclosed.

ld

Enclosure

c Mayor Sauget
Harold G. Baker, Jr.
James L. Gary
Joseph M. Grana
Roger E. Rader

Kevin,
the reporter left before industry talked. She only stayed for the first two speakers.
Keith

DSW 134576

East St. Louis News Journal
July 28, 1993, Wednesday

'Toward a Cleaner Future'

Community involvement urged in fighting hazardous waste

By Peggy O'Farrell
Staff writer

Community involvement is the key to environmental justice, activists told East St. Louis residents at a community partnership conference Saturday.

Calvin Mitchell, a representative of the Citizens Clearing House on Hazardous Waste, said "over 40 percent" of the nation's hazardous waste sites are located in communities populated primarily by people of color. He cited communities in Alabama, California and Louisiana as prime examples.

"This is indicative of what's happening around the nation. People of color communities are being targeted or singled out as communities that are vulnerable or as communities that can be used as disposal sites," Mitchell said.

In many instances, site officials will promise jobs as an incentive to cities in need of economic development, he said.

"They neglect to tell you that those construction contracts are going to go the lowest bidder and he's going to use union labor," he said, adding most high-wage, management-type positions are "imported" as the firms bring in their managment teams, engineers and technicians.

"Most of the jobs that are filled from the community are the janitors and the security jobs," he said.

Mitchell spoke Saturday at the "Toward a Cleaner Future" conference in East St. Louis. The conference, sponsored by Operation New Spirit, also featured facts on toxic waste in the Metro East.

East St. Louis has 22 abandoned toxic waste sites. A group of residents recently protested a halt in clean-up work at the Lansing site in the Alta Sita neighborhood. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency stopped cleaning up the site, which contains PCBs and other toxins, because funds ran out.

"In environmental justice, who are the criminals?" Mitchell asked. "They're communities fighting for justice all over the country. The real criminals who are making the big bucks are more concerned about the bottom line than what they find in the community."

He urged residents to "agitate" to achieve justice. "The justice movement is important for us all. Power concedes nothing without demand. If you make no demands on those empowered, you get exactly that: nothing," Mitchell said. "If you want change, you have to demand. You have to agitate."



(Staff photo by PEGGY O'FARRELL)

Calvin Jackson of Citizens Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste makes a point during Saturday's meeting.

He told residents to make "No justice, no peace" their rallying cry.

"How did we get the right to vote back in the 1960s? We agitated. We protested. We demanded. How did women get the right to vote in the suffrage movement? They agitated. They protested they demanded," Mitchell said.

"We're going to demand change and we're going to demand justice and we're not going to stop until we get the justice we so richly deserve."

Kevin Green of the Center for Neighborhood Technology told residents to demand information on hazardous materials used, stored or generated from manufacturers and disposal sites in their communities.

"Go directly to the plant manager. Don't rely upon your legislator or the environmental agencies to get the job done," Green said.

Under the 1986 Federal Com

(See SEMINAR, Page 2A)

08-04-93 11:09AM FROM MONSANTO CHEM CORP
P03
DSM 134577
STLCOPCB4034535

•Seminar

(Continued from Page 1A)

munity Right to Know Act, large companies are required to itemize all toxic chemicals involved in their manufacturing, storage or disposal processes. Power plants and sewage treatment plants are exempt under the law, he said.

The report "only covers" 320 materials, Green said, but it is a "good starting point" for research.

"The thing about some of these chemicals is not only can they pose health threats over a long period of time, but some of them are also explosive or flammable, so you have to take that into account," he said.

And in many instances, no one has researched the effects of exposure to a variety of chemical substances released into the environment in urban, industrialized areas — like East St. Louis and the Metro East.

"Nobody really knows what all this means in terms of affecting your health. It's very difficult to do those types of studies when you have a variety of chemicals being released into the community," Green said.

State and federal standards "don't go far enough to protect people, especially in urban areas like the Metro East," he said.

"You're breathing like a chemical soup. Our environmental laws don't take that into account. Everything's on a chemical by chemical basis," Green said. "They don't look at the adverse effects of those mixtures.

DSM 134578

STLCOPCB4034536