

BLACK & VEATCH

ENGINEERS - ARCHITECTS

TEL. (313) 259-5300

SUITE 1220, 200 RENAISSANCE CENTER
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48243

February 7, 1986

The Honorable George Crockett
U.S. House of Representatives
1531 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

TC
consider

Dear Congressman Crockett:

I am writing to express my concern and the concern of my associates here at Black & Veatch with the future of the federal hazardous waste cleanup program commonly called Superfund. As you know, the original legislation expired last October 1 and the two houses of Congress have been unable to reach agreement as to how certain key issues are to be handled. The funding mechanism appears to be particularly problematic.

In the meantime, the entire program, for all practical purposes, has ground to a halt. There is very little actual work being done and no new remedial investigations have been authorized since last summer. The small amount of funds that have been available have been directed toward those activities necessary to restarting the program upon passage of the reauthorization bill by Congress and signing by the President.

My associates and I strongly believe that reauthorization of Superfund is the most important environmental issue currently facing the nation and Michigan. We would appreciate any effort you can direct toward this end. We recognize this may be difficult with Gramm-Rudman, tax simplification, and other major issues currently before Congress. Even so, we believe it deserves priority attention.

With regard to specifics of the two bills now before Congress, we support the basic position of the Design-Construction Industry Coalition, a group of twelve separate professional and construction related organizations. The Coalition has endorsed the following provisions and supports their inclusion in the final bill:

- o The liability of response action contractors hired by EPA, other Federal agencies, the States or industries undertaking clean-up of their own sites should be clarified and differentiated from that of generators, transporters or processors of hazardous waste.
- o Response action contractors should be removed from the chain of strict, joint and several liability imposed by the courts under Superfund, and a single standard of liability should be applied to their activities throughout the fifty states.