

April 20, 2007

Congressman Sestak
600 N. Jackson St.
Suite 203
Media, Pa 19063

Dear Congressman Sestak;

We are dismayed to learn that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is not taking this issue of trichloroethylene (TCE) air emissions seriously. We hope that you are also troubled by the EPA's lax oversight, and ask that you make every effort to require the EPA to take a more aggressive stance in the reduction of this carcinogenic pollutant.

TCE, a chemical used in the degreasing process of metal products ranging from hypodermic needles to aerospace machinery, has been linked to several forms of cancer including liver, ovarian, prostate, and kidney among other internal organs. TCE levels in the Borough of Colledgeville, Borough of Trappe, Lower Providence Township and Upper Providence Township have been discovered to be at levels that, scientists feel, create a serious health risk to residents. The cumulative effects of TCE are well documented and can have a serious deleterious impact on children and prenatal infants in areas where the chemical is released into the air.

While the two manufactures located in Lower Providence and Trappe that use TCE as a degreasing solvent are within current EPA regulations, the combined emissions from the facilities have created a dangerous toxic environment. Recently the EPA released new regulations regarding toxic air pollutants entitled: "National Air Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Halogenated Solvent Cleaning". In this new standards sheet the EPA specifically exempts narrow tube manufacturers (section III A 3) such as Accellent and Superior Tube, the two major offenders in the region.

We are furious in the EPA's lack of both community involvement and interaction with government officials in their final determination to exempt these businesses. Their public response period prior to the finalization of this document was not properly advertised considering the severity of this concern. The health and welfare of our constituents should come as a paramount issue for all elected officials.

We are disappointed and outraged at the recent EPA National Air Emissions Regulations, and request your support for an immediate review by the EPA of the aforementioned document. There can be no justifiable reason for the EPA to exempt the narrow tube manufacturers from a mandatory reduction of this toxic and caustic chemical.

Your support is vital to help the communities and residents of not only the Greater Collegeville area, but many other areas of the Nation where TCE is emitted into the air. We ask that you join us in finding a solution to this issue so that we may preserve the health of our local communities.

Very Truly Yours,



Senator John Rafferty
44th Senatorial District



Senator Andy Dinniman
19th Senatorial District



Representative Mike Vereb
150th Legislative District

cc: Senator Arlen Specter
Senator Robert Casey
Congressman Charlie Dent
Congressman Jim Gerlach