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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3311

April 28, 2009

DEPUTY AT-LARGE WHIP

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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COMMITTEE ON  
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
AND TRADE  
CHAIRMAN

Bill A. Roderick  
Acting Inspector General  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. (2410T)  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Roderick:

I would like to call your attention to a situation occurring within my Congressional District which may warrant investigation from your office. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been involved in emergency removal actions at a hazardous waste site in Skyland, North Carolina. The majority of the acreage in question was once owned by CTS Corporation, which manufactured electronic parts there from 1959 to 1985.

Activities at this site required the use of significant amounts of chemicals including trichloroethylene (TCE), which is often used as a degreasing agent. Exposure to and consumption of elevated levels of this chemical can pose a threat to human health. TCE contamination has been found in samples of groundwater, spring water, soil, and ambient air in areas surrounding the CTS site, which has become increasingly developed in recent years.

On the afternoon of Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, an EPA contractor tested an artesian well near the CTS site that had previously been capped, due to elevated levels of TCE in this water. After the contractor left, the pump at this well sprung a leak, spraying contaminated water onto the lawn of the Robinson Family. Attempts were made by Mrs. Robinson and others to dial the EPA emergency hotline, but the callers received no response. The local fire department implemented a temporary repair, but EPA contractors did not arrive at the site until Sunday evening.

The Emergency hotline is critical to reporting potential hazards and protecting public health and safety. I am discouraged that this line of communication did not function as it was supposed to in the case of the Robinson Family. As such, I respectfully request that a formal investigation of these particular events and an assessment of the overall functionality of this hotline be conducted as soon as possible.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Ryan Fitzpatrick in my Washington, DC office at (202) 225-6401. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Heath Shuler  
Member of Congress