

Rt. 4 Box 636A
Berea, KY 40403
July 17, 1980

Matthew Meselson
Natural Sciences
Harvard University

Dear Professor Meselson:

I am a member of a small public interest group in Madison County, Kentucky, called C.A.S.E. (Citizen Action for a Safe Environment). One of the potential hazards to the environment about which we are concerned is the store of nerve gases and mustard gas munitions at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Richmond, Ky. As an expert in chemical warfare and disarmament, you may be able to help us answer these questions:

1. How can we be sure the nerve gas weapons are stored safely? We should be able to obtain copies of the Army's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) relating to these weapons soon. How can we assess if the SOPs are adequate or if sufficient security measures are being taken?
2. What should be done in the event of leakage or explosion of nerve gas munitions?
3. How can we push for the destruction of old stockpiles of nerve and mustard gases? We understand that there is a facility for this at the Tooele Depot in Utah. Who in the Army, Congress, or Administration can be encouraged to proceed with this?
4. What can we do to be sure that these chemicals are transported properly when the time comes?
5. How can we lobby effectively for a CW treaty and a ban on production and stockpiling of chemical warfare agents?

You may be able to suggest references or people to contact that could answer these questions. We appreciate your continuing efforts toward arms control.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Lamm
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