

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3226

January 30, 2012

The Honorable Lisa Jackson  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

I am writing today to request your immediate attention to the Lehigh Valley Railroad Derailment Superfund Site in LeRoy, New York.

On December 26, 1970, a freight train operated by the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company derailed two miles outside the town of LeRoy, spilling roughly 30,000 gallons of trichlorethene (TCE) and one ton of a crystalline form of cyanide. After chemicals were later found in the soil and ground water, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) added the site to the Superfund National Priorities List on January 19, 1999.

Recently, the site has come under increased scrutiny as local reports and photographs indicate a woeful lack of remediation, including aging and decrepit waste barrels at the site. As a result, many in the LeRoy community have questioned the impact of the site on the local environment and the community.

As you know, this site has also received additional attention due to concerns raised by community members about a possible link between a number of young residents suffering from a possible neurological disorder. While the two issues may prove to be unrelated, communities should feel confident that once an accident occurs, the EPA and other agencies can deliver in their roles to protect the public health.

I respectfully request that the EPA take immediate action to re-evaluate the Lehigh Valley Railroad Derailment Superfund Site and take appropriate action as warranted. Thank you for your timely consideration on this matter. As public servants, we have a responsibility to protect the well being of our constituents. By working together on this issue, we can fulfill that mission.

Sincerely,



Kathleen C. Hochul  
Member of Congress