

May 1, 2003

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Dr. Lewis:

This letter is to inform you about sewage sludge and wastewater grit. I have been hauling this material out to farmers' fields in Wichita and Sumner County, Kansas since about 1995.

I asked city officials, including the supervisor of the plant, if this material is safe and if there is anything that I needed to know about any health risks. They assured me that it is safe to haul – no health issues.

In February, 2002, the Wichita Eagle ran a story about sewage sludge and said that the material may be hazardous. (See the article I am sending to you dated Friday February 8, 2002.) At that point, I became very concerned about hauling the material. So, I started asking questions regarding sewage sludge.

Then, in April, 2002, KAKE Channel 10 - did a story about sewage sludge. They said many doubt that city sewage sludge is safe. (See the article dated April 1, 2002.) At that time I started to get very confused about this material.

If you will look on page three of this article, you will see where (the person) who oversees the plant said that, if there were health risks, workers at the plant would be the first to get sick and that hasn't happened. This is a total lie. His employees are off sick quite often.

I and my employees have been sick more often than usual, and I have been hospitalized. My doctor found an E. coli infection in my foot. (I have also had) flu-like symptoms, frequent runny nose, and nose bleeds. My brother was hospitalized two weeks ago for bowel blockage – others for severe throat infections.

A friend of mine that had worked for the city of Wichita for 15 years had at least three strokes in the fields where sludge was spread. He can no longer work at all. (City officials) falsify employees' records when they are off sick to make it look like they are not getting sick, and (substitute) vacation days or overtime. I have witnessed this.

I have (corresponded with) NIOSH about health risks. NIOSH (informed me) that the sewage plant supervisor and the City of Wichita should warn me and my employees about the hazards found in sewage sludge. As to this day, the city officials have not warned me about the hazards.

Since notifying NIOSH, someone from the EPA (called the) supervisor at the city plant (in September, 2002). I was in the office (when EPA called). (EPA) told (the City supervisor) that I had some health concerns, so (the supervisor) told her that I was standing right there if she wanted to talk to me. So, I got on the phone and she asked me about my concerns. I told her that I did have concerns, but she just listened to me and never responded. I (handed) the phone back to the supervisor and they continued the

conversation. I was told that my name would be kept confidential, but it hasn't been. Since that time, I have been harassed by (the supervisors).

Complaints to the city officials have done nothing for me. I feel that they are trying to run me out of business. On Wednesday April 30.2003, I had a meeting at City Hall about these problems. (The) City managers tried to cancel my contracts. I told them to go ahead – its not the end of the world. But, at that time, they didn't do so.

I would like for someone to look into these problems that I am waiting (to get answers about). I can't believe (supervisors) tell lies, such as not many people have had serious health problems that need to be addressed. I, and my employees, have health problems. My foot drains fluid from infection every day. I have never had E. coli (infections) before working at the sewage (treatment) plant.

I hope this letter is helpful.

Sincerely,

Gary O. Ingram, Sr.

Contractor for disposing of sewage sludges