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For immediate release

Local leaders urge Governor's continued support: No reburying hazardous wastes at Barrel Fill

Twenty-eight local political and civic leaders are calling on Governor Kasich to reaffirm support for permanent removal of all hazardous wastes at the Tremont City Barrel Fill. In a letter sent to the Governor recently, officials state, "Our request is for the OEPA to continue their support for Alternative 4, permanent removal of all hazardous wastes."

The Ohio EPA has opposed the U.S. EPA plan since it was announced to the public in June 2011. Since then, bipartisan opposition to the plan by local officials and citizens has continued to grow. Letter signers include the Clark County Commissioners, Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, City of Springfield Commissioners, Clark County Trustees Association, German Township Trustees, New Carlisle City Council members, and People for Safe Water.

The Barrel Fill site, which actively accepted containerized and noncontainerized industrial and hazardous wastes from 1976 through 1979, is estimated to hold 1.5 million gallons of hazardous waste. Most importantly, the Barrel Fill is sited above a critical recharge zone of the aquifer which is the sole source of drinking water for more than 82,000 Clark County residents.

Test results from groundwater sampling done at the site in December were released last week, and citizens are reviewing the results. "Well sample results are just a snapshot in time," said Marilyn Welker, President of the local citizens group, People for Safe Water. "We will not trust the safety of our drinking water to a snapshot in time. The core issue is that reburying hazardous wastes at the site is not a cleanup. We want those wastes dug up and trucked out."

Citizens' greatest concern is the future risk to the region's water. "This issue has enormous economic, health, and political implications for the well-being of Clark County businesses and residents in the coming years," says Welker. "The Governor's continued support for permanent removal of all hazardous wastes is critical."

For more information:

Website: People for Safe Water: www.peopleforsafewater.org