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Douglas Tomchuck
Project Manager
USEPA Region II

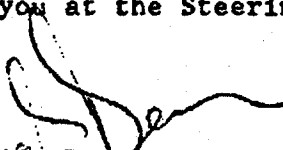
Dear Doug;

As usual, It is difficult for me to comment on the Phase II Work Plan and Sampling Plan. And, as usual, I'm even more puzzled by the lack of consensus in the scientific thought and procedures than by the report itself. It does bring to mind though something that my father, a very technical and scientific man used to say, "All knowledge, even that which appears true and absolute, is based on Faith". I would go further and define Faith as Trust based on Needs.

My Needs in this Reassessment are, by now, well-known. But, Trust?? I trust everyone and I trust no-one. I believe Black is Black and Black is White and sometimes Red. I'm certainly not naive enough to be surprised by this, and with the stakes riding as high as they are, expected it. Somewhere along the way though, I expected some clarity, I expected to Trust. Lately, I'm even having trouble trusting the process.

But, I can say that curiosity alone is enough to see me through it to the end. All I would ask at this point is that the politics, the PR, the scientific debates, and the whole Plan be tempered with Common Sense. Right now I can only trust that in the end, it will prevail. And if it doesn't, as it sometimes hasn't in the past, then I'm glad I've got a good lawyer on retainer.

See you at the Steering Committee Meeting in August.....



Judy Schmidt-Dean
Chair
Citizens Liaison Group
CIP