

June 29, 2011

Mr. Doug Guarino
Inside EPA
1919 South Eads St. – Suite 201
Arlington VA 22202

Dear Mr. Guarino:

Congratulations for winning two important awards from the Society of Professional Journalists. No one could be less surprised than I am regarding your awards again this year.

As an example of your journalistic excellence, your three articles on West Lake Landfill here in St. Louis were absolutely basic in alerting our political leaders to the hazards and history of the radioactive wastes that were illegally dumped into the Missouri River's urban floodplain back in 1973.

Unfortunately, your investigating and writing talents are still needed out here. I worry about the continued silence of the EPA Region 7. I certainly believe your Inside EPA articles helped inspire the EPA to reconsider (!!) its original West Lake Record of Decision which had been merely to spread a little clay and some rocks and construction rubble on top of the Belgian Congo uranium residues, and walk away.

But I don't know what's up with the EPA at this point. The Missouri River is certainly demonstrating its huge power above ground --- and no doubt below ground in its floodplains, as well. I wonder where our wastes are now.

But in the meantime, my appreciation and congratulations.

Sincerely,

cc: Dr. Robert Criss, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Washington
University in St. Louis
Kacie Starr Triplett, St. Louis Board of Aldermen
Keith English, Florissant City Council
Diane D'Arrigo, Nuclear Information and Resource Center
Kevin Kamps, Beyond Nuclear
Henry Robertson, Great Rivers Environmental Law Center
Kathleen Logan Smith, Missouri Coalition for the Environment