



County Executive John R. Leopold
P.O. Box 2700 Annapolis, MD 21404

June 30, 2008

Dr. William M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

RE: Environmental Protection Agency Orders Regarding Fort Meade

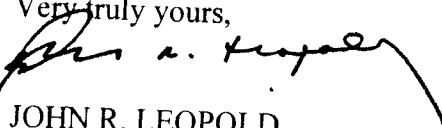
Dear Secretary Gates:

The Washington Post (June 30, 2008) reports that the Defense Department is "resisting orders from the Environmental Protection Agency" to clean up Fort Meade where "the EPA says dumped chemicals pose "imminent and substantial" dangers to public health and the environment." I write this letter to urge that you reconsider this policy and take immediate action to comply with those orders, particularly regarding Fort Meade, in Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

That installation has long been an important member of the Anne Arundel County community. Operations on Fort Meade include the National Security Agency, the county's largest single employer. My administration prides itself on a strong relationship with the military command of Fort Meade.

But as County Executive, my primary responsibility is the protection of the public health and safety. Reports such as those quoted above give me serious concern and obligate me to appeal to you for action to make the remediation ordered by the Environmental Protection Agency. Among the chief concerns expressed by the EPA is the contamination of county soils and drinking water by the presence of two chemicals: perchlorate and trichloroethylene (TCE.) The last of these (TCE) is reportedly one of the most widespread pollutants of ground water in the United States.

There is no acceptable excuse for the refusal to address these important threats to the public health. On behalf of the citizens of Anne Arundel County, I urge immediate and meaningful action to comply with the orders of the EPA.

Very truly yours,

JOHN R. LEOPOLD
County Executive

cc: Hon. Senator Barbara Mikulski
Hon. Senator Benjamin Cardin
Hon. Congressman Rupersberger
Stephen L. Johnson, Administrator, EPA
Shari Wilson, Secretary, MDE