

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 428
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101
TELEPHONE (573) 751-4106
FAX (573) 751-0467

EMAIL: MARIA.CHAPPELLENADAL@SENATE.MO.GOV
WWW.SENATE.MO.GOV/CHAPPELLE-NADAL



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VETERANS' AFFAIRS AND HEALTH

MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

September 9, 2015

MARIA CHAPPELLE-NADAL
14TH DISTRICT

The Honorable Roy Blunt
United States Senate
260 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: National Security Threat from Radioactive Waste

Dear Senator Blunt:

I am writing to urge your support to bring the Environmental Protection Agency before the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs to answer for their longtime negligence. People raised in St. Louis, some living here still and some that have emigrated around the country, have been exposed to radioactive material leftover from the Manhattan Project.

We are finding this radioactive waste material has been illegally dumped in various sites around our region, some of which by Mallinckrodt. This dumping is threatening our watershed and is being carried through creeks and rivers that back up to homes and where children play. Long ago Coldwater Creek was restructured. The dirt from this project was placed in and around newer housing developments as fill-in, which means radioactive contaminated soil surrounds the homes of the people we represent. Also, St. Cin Park in Hazelwood has been identified as one of the places with radioactive waste where children are directly exposed to hazardous material. In the last few days, I have discovered yet another landfill that was filled with Mallinckrodt waste. Above this site sits the St. Louis County Board of Elections where many employees have died of rare cancers and diseases. It is my suspicion the individuals currently affected by these contaminants will continue to be in danger if nothing is done.

The EPA was charged with overseeing the proper disposal of the waste and they horrendously failed in their duties over the course of decades. Some have likened their incompetence to having allowed a "dirty bomb" to be placed in the center of the country. This "dirty bomb" has slowly poisoned our citizens, communities and wild life for generations.

Another reason why I am contacting you is because the radioactive waste in Bridgeton can possibly be a national security threat to our country. Since there is an enormous amount of enriched uranium, thorium, benzene and radium concentrated in one place, any individual or group of individuals can target the Bridgeton Landfill, causing an immediate irruption where radioactive contaminants are exposed and attached onto particles in the air, thus creating a "dirty bomb" over the St. Louis region affecting millions of people. This is why I urge you to bring before your committee the Environmental Protection Agency and ask why they have not adequately addressed these real concerns for decades.

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Furthermore, in the past six weeks, five of our constituents have died of rare cancers and diseases. Yet there are hundreds more that are suffering. Many have moved away but their fate has already been sealed. Our children are born with brain cancer, brain tumors, missing eye balls, and leukemia in higher rates than what is typically expected for a normal community. Some children even have double sets of teeth.

This issue is much bigger than what the St. Louis County Department of Health can handle. They do not have the resources necessary to fully or adequately study the impact across St. Louis County. They are clearly at a loss of what to do. At this time, the St. Louis region directly needs national experts from the Center for Disease Control.

Only congressional hearings can hold the EPA accountable, address our national security risks and address the harm done to our citizens. I demand swift action from congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maria Chappelle-Nadal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Maria" being the most prominent.

MARIA CHAPPELLE-NADAL
State Senator, District 14

MCN/jb/ceb