To: Whom it may Concern,

We thank you for the opportunity to express our feelings concerning the Raymark Contamination issues in Stratford, Connecticut. Many of our members of S.A.F.E (Stratford Action For the Environment) have resided in Stratford for anywhere from 20-40 years and were unaware of the Raymark problems until approximately 1992. It is unfortunate that we were given such short notice to speak to you personally however we wish to submit a response in writing for the record of our fears, concerns and hopes for a solution to the Raymark waste situation in Stratford, Connecticut. Attached Enclosure 1 is provided with facts concerning our 10 plus years with the Raymark issues.

We are writing on behalf of members of S.A.F.E a group of citizens that was formed shortly after being advised by members of the EPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) and CTDEP (Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection) of a plan to bury almost One and a half million cubic yards of contaminated Raybestos/Raymark asbestos laden soil in the back yards of our homes. The first plan was to move the contaminated soil from a local boat club and other locations to the former Raybestos Field on Frog Pond Lane a property no longer owned by the contaminator as well as the former Contract Plating Company property. The next phases of the plans included many other sites (OU's) within the town to the same location. Shortly after our experience and with the EPA and CTDEP the agencies and town manager agreed to form a citizens group and many of us were on a group known as the RAC (Raymark Advisory Committee). We spend the next almost 10 years at meetings where were told what properties were contaminated by Raybestos asbestos, lead and PCB's that were dumped or given by Raybestos to resident to be used as fill on their properties.

The EPA and CTDEP wanted to dump the contamination back on both the ball field and Contract Plating property using the excuse that the contaminated soil came from the former Raybestos later Raymark Industries plant. No Raymark contamination originated from either the ball field or Contract Plating. Once the Raymark plant was demolished by the EPA/CTDEP the method to remediate was to bring many truck loads of contaminated soil the old plant and parking lot area and cap it, and then cover the cap with fill and asphalt. By placing contaminated materials under a protective cap someone felt it was where it belonged and back from where it came. The contaminated dirt now sits waiting for another generation to inherit

As SAFE and RAC members we did considerable research on the properties and discovered that the ball field did have issues, however Contract Plating did not have asbestos, nor PCB's as described in the EPA bulletin thereby making Contract Plating ineligible to receive any "Superfund" material or funds for remediation. The EPA and CTDEP representatives argued the point that Contract Plating was a "Superfund location" and in EPA Bulletin #24 it was shown in OU6 as a Superfund site location. This attitude was maintained for many years by both agencies and during the SRI

(Superfund Redevelopment Initiative) Superfund monies were used to study potential land usage for the former Contract Plating Company property and existing buildings. The former Contract Plating according to state provided contaminated property reports showed Contract Plating as a metal plating company. There was no report of asbestos findings on the state report. However the EPA and CTDEP representatives insisted that they were going to dump Raymark asbestos and PCB contaminated soil on both properties and cover with a cap and make it into a park for the residents! Needless to say, SAFE and many members of the RAC were concerned about the idea of creating and operating a hazardous waste landfill and ultimately of entombing the Raybestos/Raymark contamination in the middle of a residential neighborhood. The outcome of 10 years of RAC meetings was a stalemate with the government continuing to mull options, while residents and businesses in Stratford continue to live in Superfund Purgatory.

Our hope is that local, state and federal governments will not repeat the errors of the past. We hope to see a safe & successful master plan with correct costs, start dates, safety standards, and ending dates for the projects. These goals must leave the town of Stratford with a clean environment that will be safe for the residents and be inviting for future residents and businesses to relocate to Stratford. We do not desire to have additional mistakes and promises for another 10 plus years and see no positive action. The groups (SAFE and the RAC) wanted the contaminated soil to be dug up and carted away safely to a location where it could be remediated properly so that t was no longer a treat to humans. The movement of contaminated soil from one place in Stratford to another place in town is costly and counterproductive. The place of origin went out of business in 1989.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Perez
President SAFE
RAC Member

Ronald Mazzey
Vice President SAFE
RAC Member

Stephanie Brackett
Board of Directors SAFE

Paul Rohaly
Board of Directors SAFE
RAC Member

Veronica Peters
SAFE Member
RAC Member

Robert Osborn
SAFE Member
RAC Member

Enclosure 1

There are reports prepared by the EPA in the Stratford Library for the Operating Units and on the EPA's web site.

The information listed below was taken from the EPA web site: Waste Site Clean-up & Reuse in New England

RAYMARK INDUSTRIES
Stratford, Connecticut

OU1 (Operating Unit #1) The cost of remediating the OU1 or former Raybestos/Raymark property was estimated to be over 200 million dollars the actual cost as well as annual maintenance cost should be available from USEPA and CTDEP representatives. The OU1 property has two buildings on the property that monitor groundwater contaminated by the former Raybestos /Raymark facility that flow under the parking lot and approximately 120 homes. The CTDEP has a listing of reports from a private concern as to the parts of the contaminated materials in the ground water. The Ground Water carries residues known to produce VOC's (Volatile Organic Compounds). The VOC's are percolating up through the basements of these homes and per the former Stratford Health Director are harmful to the residents. This topic is briefly discussed in EPA bulletins concerning OU2. The EPA provided three large books full of reports on the Ground Water problem.

OU2 (Operating Unit #2) Listed as Ground Water and Indoor Air. The cost of the systems was approximately $1.5 million dollars the actual cost should be available from the USEPA & CTDEP representatives. The Ground Water per the EPA will not be clean for at least 100 years. To reduce the effects of the ground water problem's VOC's percolating into the living spaces of the 120 plus homes RAYDON type vent systems were installed into at least 110 home, however the CTDEP and USDEP has never provided a report of the VOC level before installation, or after they were installed. The Ground Water problems are monitored through both a deep and shallow well system that emanates from the OU1 property also known as "Stratford Crossing".

OU3 (Operating Unit #3) Listed as Ferry Creek . This area contains per EPA reports contains: asbestos, metals, pesticides, semi-volatile organic compounds (VOC'S), PCB's, and dioxins.

OU4 (Operating Unit #4) The Raybestos Memorial Ball Field. This property has been tested per the EPA and was a gravel pit, and later a disposal area for contaminates that include asbestos, lead, arsenic, and PCB's.

OU5 (Operating Unit #5) The Shore Road Area near the Housatonic Boat Club and the former Shakespeare Theater. The area per EPA reports contains: contaminated

soils. This area has had a temporary cover over the access road, pier and other work done to the property in September 2000.

OU6 (Operating Unit #6) This Operating Unit covers many commercial businesses and some residential property as well. Many of these businesses have closed because of the lack of a solution of the problems, or the planned costs of annual inspections to an EPA acceptable plan and repair costs to a cap by the individual owner. This area contains per EPA reports: asbestos, metals, pesticides, semi-volatile organic compounds (VOC'S), PCB's, and dioxins.

OU7 (Operating Unit #7) This unit is a combination of lower Ferry Creek, Shelby Pond, and the Housatonic River wetlands east of Shore Road. This area contains per EPA reports: asbestos, metals, pesticides, semi-volatile organic compounds (VOC'S), PCB's, and dioxins.

OU8 (Operating Unit #8) Ferry Creek Area 3 on EPA maps, known as OU8. This unit is a combination of upper Ferry Creek, and the wetlands at Beacon Point and Elm Street. This area contains per EPA reports: asbestos, metals, pesticides, semi-volatile organic compounds (VOC'S), PCB's, and dioxins.

OU9 (Operating Unit #9) The Short Beach Park and The Stratford Landfill. The two areas were historically used as a single landfill. The Short Beach Park is currently a recreational area for baseball, softball, soccer and golf. The CTDEP reports that the Short Beach Park area contains Raymark waste. This area now used as a park has been reviewed in an RI and identified the need to develop a permanent remedy.