

REMARKS OF GOVERNOR THOMAS H. KEAN

PRESS BRIEFING ON HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP

STATE HOUSE

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 1985

GOOD AFTERNOON.

LAST NIGHT, I SIGNED TWO BILLS THAT PROVIDE A TOTAL OF \$100 MILLION IN APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE HAZARDOUS DISCHARGE BOND FUND, WHICH WAS APPROVED BACK IN 1981, FOR TOXIC WASTE CLEANUP. .

IN ADDITION, WHEN I SIGNED THE STATE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1986 INTO LAW LAST MONTH, I SIGNED AN APPROPRIATION OF ANOTHER \$150 MILLION IN HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP.

WHEN COMBINED WITH THE \$12 MILLION IN CURRENT RECEIPTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1986 IN THE SPILL FUND, THE MONEY WE EXPECT FROM THE FEDERAL SUPERFUND -- WHICH SHOULD BE IN THE RANGE OF \$50 MILLION OR MORE -- AND THE SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT FOR CLEANUP THAT WILL COME RESPONSIBLE PARTIES -- AND AGAIN, WE EXPECT THIS TO BE IN THE RANGE OF AT LEAST \$45 to \$50 MILLION -- WE NOW HAVE THE MONEY FOR OUR HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 1986 IN PLACE.

I CALLED YOU TOGETHER TODAY, NOW THAT THE FUNDING IS IN PLACE, TO BRIEF YOU ON OUR PLANS FOR CLEANING UP TOXIC WASTES IN THE COMING YEAR -- AND TO BRING YOU UP TO DATE ON THE PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE IN PURSUING THE FOUR-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR CLEANING UP NEW JERSEY'S TOXIC WASTE SITES THAT I ANNOUNCED IN FEBRUARY OF 1983.

THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIAL.

FROM JANUARY 1ST OF LAST YEAR, AND APRIL OF THIS YEAR, WE TOOK 292 CLEANUP ACTIONS IN NEW JERSEY.

THAT INCLUDES 33 CONSTRUCTION OR REMOVAL ACTIONS -- THAT MEANS SHOVELS IN THE GROUND, BARRELS BEING REMOVED, CONTAINMENT WALLS BEING BUILT.

OF THOSE 33, 16 TOOK PLACE AT SITES ON THE SUPERFUND NATIONAL PRIORITY LIST.

IN ADDITION, 29 SMALLER SITES (LIKE THE TRENTON-LAWRENCEVILLE LABS), AND 73 DRUM DUMPS -- WHICH RANGE IN SIZE FROM ONE OR TWO TO SEVERAL HUNDRED DRUMS -- WERE COMPLETELY CLEANED UP.

FINALLY, OUR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS AND THE E.C.R.A. PROGRAM -- WHICH IS A NATIONAL MODEL -- HAVE RESULTED IN 99 CLEANUPS IN THAT TIME.

IF YOU UPDATE THE FIGURES TO TODAY, THE PROGRESS IS EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT.

OF THE 97 SITES ON THE SUPERFUND LIST, WE HAVE
UNDERTAKEN CLEANUP OR REMOVAL -- AGAIN, THAT'S SHOVELS IN THE
GROUND, DRUMS BEING REMOVED, SLURRY WALLS BEING BUILT -- AT
20 OF THOSE SITES.

THAT'S JUST SINCE JANUARY OF 1984 -- LAST YEAR.

OVERALL, SINCE THIS ADMINISTRATION TOOK OFFICE, WE'VE HAD
CONSTRUCTION OR REMOVAL ACTIVITY AT FULLY 36 OF THOSE SITES.

WE'VE PREPARED SOME CHARTS WHICH SHOW THIS PROGRESS. AS
YOU CAN SEE, WE'VE ACCELERATED THE TOXIC WASTE CLEANUP
PROGRAM DRAMATICALLY DURING THESE LAST TWO YEARS -- BOTH IN
TERMS OF DOLLAR OBLIGATIONS AND IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF
SITES AT WHICH THERE'S ACTION GOING ON.

YOU ALSO HAVE BEFORE YOU A TABLE WHICH SIMPLY GOES DOWN
THE LIST OF THOSE 97 SUPERFUND SITES -- SITE BY SITE -- AND
INDICATES WHAT WE'VE DONE AT EACH SITE.

AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, WHAT THESE NUMBERS SHOW IS THAT WE HAVE STARTED MORE FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND ENGINEERING DESIGNS, AND THAT WE'VE DONE MORE CONSTRUCTION AND REMOVAL AT THE SITES THEMSELVES, THAN ANY OTHER STATE IN THE NATION -- BY FAR.

OUT OF A TOTAL OF \$342.8 MILLION DISTRIBUTED BY EPA THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY IN THE LAST FOUR FISCAL YEARS, NEW JERSEY RECEIVED \$52.7 MILLION. THAT'S ABOUT ONE-SIXTH OF THE TOTAL FOR THE ENTIRE NATION.

CLEARLY, THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT NEW JERSEY IS THE NATIONAL LEADER IN CLEANING UP TOXIC WASTES.

MY GOAL TODAY, NOW THAT THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM IS IN PLACE, IS TO ACCELERATE THAT LEADERSHIP.

MY GOAL IS TO TAKE THE NATION'S BEST CLEANUP PROGRAM, AND MAKE IT EVEN BETTER. EVEN MORE AGGRESSIVE.

TO DO THAT, WE STILL NEED A FEW THINGS TO HAPPEN.

THE BILLS I SIGNED LAST NIGHT PROVIDED BOND MONEY THAT WE'VE NEEDED FOR SOME TIME NOW. IN FACT, WHEN THEY WERE FIRST INTRODUCED, THERE REALLY WAS NO OTHER SOURCE OF FUNDS TO KEEP OUR CLEANUP PROGRAM GOING FULL SPEED.

THE ORIGINAL BOND ACT THAT THE VOTERS APPROVED SAID THAT THIS MONEY COULD ONLY BE USED WHEN ALL OTHER SOURCES OF STATE AND FEDERAL DOLLARS FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP HAD ALREADY BEEN EXHAUSTED.

WELL, BETWEEN THE TIME THE BILL WAS INTRODUCED AND TODAY, THAT \$150 MILLION IN GENERAL FUNDS IN THE BUDGET BECAME AVAILABLE FOR CLEANUP. SO, ACCORDING TO THE BOND ACT, WE'VE GOT TO USE THAT MONEY FIRST.

I SUPPORT A BILL -- ONE THAT'S BEEN PENDING IN THE ASSEMBLY FOR SOME TIME NOW -- WHICH WOULD GIVE US SOME FLEXIBILITY ON THIS. WHICH WOULD ALLOW US TO PROCEED AS FAST AS WE CAN WITH ALL OF THE RESOURCES WE HAVE.

THAT'S A BILL, S. 1842, SPONSORED BY SENATOR CONTILLO, WHICH WOULD UNCOUPLE THE BOND ACT MONEY FROM MONEY FROM THE SPILL FUND AND ALL OTHER SOURCES. IT WOULD ALLOW US, BASICALLY, TO PUT ALL THE CLEANUP MONEY IN ONE POT AND USE THE MOST APPROPRIATE FUNDING SOURCE TO GET THE JOB DONE AS FAST AS WE CAN.

THAT BILL HAS ALREADY PASSED THE SENATE. IT IS PENDING IN THE ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE. AND TODAY, I WANT TO ASK THE ASSEMBLY TO PASS IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

I VERY MUCH HOPE IT WILL REACH MY DESK FOR APPROVAL IN TIME OT APPEAR ON THE BALLOT THIS NOVEMBER, WHICH MEANS IT WOULD HAVE TO BE LAW BY ABOUT SEPTEMBER 15th. THIS BILL MAKES SENSE -- AND IT WOULD HELP OUR CLEANUP PROGRAM. IT SHOULD BE PASSED.

OBVIOUSLY, ANOTHER FACTOR THAT'S VITAL TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR CLEANUP PROGRAM IS THE FATE OF THE FEDERAL SUPERFUND PROGRAM.

AS I SPEAK TO YOU TODAY, CONGRESS IS MARKING UP THE SUPERFUND BILL. GENERALLY, THE BILLS BEFORE CONGRESS ENVISION A MAJOR INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR SUPERFUND.

I HAVE PERSONALLY TESTIFIED TWICE BEFORE THE U.S. SENATE TO SUPPORT A DRAMATICALLY EXPANDED SUPERFUND. I HAVE SPOKEN TO THE WHITE HOUSE. I HAVE SPOKEN TO CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS.

I CAN'T EMPHASIZE STRONGLY ENOUGH THE NEED FOR CONGRESS TO ACT -- AND TO ACT QUICKLY -- TO PASS AN EXPANDED SUPERFUND REAUTHORIZATION BILL.

FRANKLY, THE LACK OF A SUPERFUND BILL IS THE SINGLE GREATEST UNCERTAINTY WE FACE IN PLANNING OUR CLEANUP PROGRAM.

SOME OF THE CHARTS WE HAVE FOR YOU TODAY SHOW SOME OF THE DIFFERENT SCENARIOS THAT WOULD RESULT FROM DIFFERENT LEVELS OF FEDERAL FUNDING.

BUT LET ME SAY THIS: REGARDLESS OF THE LEVEL OF FEDERAL MONEY, I AM COMMITTED TO FULLY CLEANING UP ALL OF NEW JERSEY'S TOXIC WASTE SITES.

THAT'S A HUGE TASK. IT'S ONE THAT WILL OCCUPY US FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL DECADES, BECAUSE EVEN AFTER THE INITIAL CLEANUP IS UNDERTAKEN AT MANY OF THESE SITES, YEARS OF OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE MAY BE REQUIRED. AND THAT HUGE TASK IS GOING TO TAKE MONEY -- LOTS OF IT -- FOR YEARS TO COME.

OUR STRATEGY HAS BEEN SIMPLE SO FAR:

- FIRST, TO CLEAN UP QUICKLY AND COMPLETELY THOSE SITES AT WHICH QUICK ACTION IS POSSIBLE.

- SECONDLY, TO LIST FOR FEDERAL FUNDING THOSE SITES WHERE MAJOR CONSTRUCTION IS REQUIRED

-- WHILE AT THE SAME TIME TAKING WHATEVER STEPS ARE NECESSARY
TO STABILIZE THE SITES AND PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

- THIRDLY, TO USE ALL OF THE LEGAL RESOURCES AT OUR
COMMAND -- THE SPILL FUND AND SUPERFUND ACTS, THE SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT ACT, THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT, AND E.C.R.A.
-- TO FORCE AS MANY CLEANUPS AS WE CAN BY THOSE WHO ARE
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SITES IN THE FIRST PLACE.

- FINALLY, TO PROVIDE ENOUGH FUNDING FROM THE STATE TO
KEEP OUR PROGRAM MOVING AT FULL TILT UNTIL THE FEDERAL
SUPERFUND PICTURE IS CLEARED UP.

I'M HAPPY THAT WE NOW HAVE THAT FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEAR
1986.

I WANT TO THANK THE SPONSORS OF THE TWO BOND ACT
APPROPRIATIONS BILLS, SENATORS LESNIAK AND DALTON,
ASSEMBLYMAN BENNETT , AND ASSEMBLYWOMAN FORD, AS WELL AS A
HOST OF OTHER LEGISLATORS WHO HAVE BEEN WORKING ON HAZARDOUS
WASTE FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP IN PROVIDING THIS NEEDED MONEY.

AS YOU KNOW, I HAD MADE AN URGENT REQUEST FOR THIS MONEY
IN MY STATE OF THE STATE MESSAGE, AND I AM VERY GLAD THAT WE
NOW HAVE IT IN PLACE.

BUT WE ARE STILL AT THE BEGINNING OF A MAJOR
UNDERTAKING.

I AM DETERMINED TO KEEP OUR TOXIC WASTE CLEANUP GOING AT
FULL SPEED. TO DO THAT, WE NEED AN EXPANDED SUPERFUND, WE
NEED THAT BILL TO GIVE US FLEXIBILITY IN USING THE BOND
MONEY, AND WE NEED A CONTINUED AND RENEWED COMMITMENT FROM
THOSE OF US IN THE STATE TO DO THE JOB.

THAT'S MY PROGRESS REPORT. I'D BE HAPPY TO TAKE YOUR
QUESTIONS.

THANK YOU.