

SENATOR CAESAR TRUNZO  
CO-CHAIRMAN

STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
HAUPPAUGE, NEW YORK 11788  
(516) 979-5336

EDWARD N. CANTOR  
CO-DIRECTOR



NEW YORK STATE  
LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION  
ON WATER RESOURCE NEEDS  
OF LONG ISLAND

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MAY W. NEWBURGER  
CO-CHAIRWOMAN

43 S MIDDLE NECK ROAD  
GREAT NECK, NEW YORK 11021  
(516) 482-7722

SARAH J. HEYLAND  
CO-DIRECTOR

*Sent to Bob Kaufman  
3/8/82*

RECEIVED  
SEP 10 1982  
RECEIVED

Abstract for Conference  
American Water Resources Association

Theme: "Water - Are We Running Out?"

ALDICARB CONTAMINATION OF SUFFOLK COUNTY GROUNDWATER:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency informed the Suffolk County Department of Health Services that water samples collected from wells in eastern Suffolk County contained more than the 7ppb of the pesticide Aldicarb (Temik). Because of massive use on the estimated 22,000 acres of potato farms, an extensive survey of groundwater was undertaken in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, State Health Department, Cornell Extension Service and the Union Carbide Corp. Ten thousand samples from community and non-community water systems and private wells were examined. Four and one-tenths percent of the community water systems surveyed, and 6.0% of the non-community water systems surveyed exceeded the guidelines. The highest concentration of Aldicarb discovered was 515ppb. The Union Carbide Corporation has installed 1181 Granular Activated Carbon Filters on private water systems in the east end of Suffolk County. The detection of pesticides in Suffolk County groundwater raises not only environmental but serious economic problems. Suffolk County is the largest agricultural area in New York State. This 52 million dollar-a-year industry could be seriously jeopardized.

In May, 1980, Greenport Water District stated that 60% of production of Southold public water is off-line. In an attempt to purge the system, it was been adding caustic soda to increase the pH and breakdown the Aldicarb. In order to meet the increased need for water during the summer tourism, Greenport was forced to open the contaminated wells and blend with water from another district to bring the concentration of Aldicarb below the 7ppb guideline. This pesticide contamination presents a serious groundwater quality problem to Long Island's sole source aquifer system, which may exist for up to 100 years.

EDWARD N. CANTOR - AUTHOR  
CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR