

# POSTCARD CAMPAIGN PROPOSED TIMELINE

Today-February 16

Initial Distribution of  
Postcards

Tuesday, February 28

Right to Know Press  
Conference-Blast Whitman

Thursday, March 16

Deadline for Returning Postcards  
to IUC; bring to Committee  
meeting if possible (Rutgers LEC,  
6:30 PM)

Tuesday, March 21  
About Noon

We bring postcards to either  
Fishman or Whitman in chemical  
drum - another press event

Reminder: Postcards should be collected and mailed or delivered  
to IUC, not mailed in to Fishman.

## ***IT'S MY RIGHT TO KNOW!***

Dear New Jersey Health Commissioner Fishman:

The Right to Know Law helps inform me and my family about chemical hazards. Please send me an explanation of New Jersey rules that require the chemical name - not a code - to be on container labels so I can learn what's *really* inside.

Please send Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets for the chemicals listed below. If you don't have Fact Sheets for these substances please inform me of your schedule for producing them. And tell me what you are doing to insure that our Right to Know Law is adequately funded.

**Send Fact Sheets for the following chemicals listed by chemical name:  
*PLEASE PRINT***

**Send \_\_\_\_\_ Send Spanish language Fact Sheets if available.  
Send \_\_\_\_\_ *private* employer or \_\_\_\_\_ *public* employer labeling explanation.**

Sponsored by N.J. Industrial Union Council (AFL-CIO) & the Right to Know Coalition.  
Speakers, training, and more postcards are available by calling (609) 866-9405.

*Over*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Union \_\_\_\_\_

Area Code/Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

20 cents  
Postage  
required

Len Fishman, Commissioner  
New Jersey Department of Health  
CN 360  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625



**IT'S STILL OUR RIGHT TO KNOW!**

# ***THE POSTCARD CAMPAIGN***

We need to prove to Governor Whitman and the legislature that the New Jersey Worker & Community Right to Know Law is important to us. And that further weakening of the law is *unacceptable* to workers, neighborhood residents, firefighters, public health professionals, and public school employees and students.

A part of this effort is a **postcard campaign** aimed at N.J. Health Commissioner Len Fishman and Gov. Whitman. This effort will educate people about our law and will show the Whitman Administration that people care about their Right to Know. **Postcards will be delivered to Governor Whitman, tentatively in late March.**

Here are some pointers for getting postcards signed:

- We want as many postcards signed and mailed in. We want many thousands! Get cards signed during lunch and break times, at union or other meetings, and in your neighborhood. Get family members and friends to fill them out.
- You do not have to research chemicals to request Fact Sheets. Almost everyone is sometimes exposed to asbestos, fiberglass, freon, carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, diesel fuel, gasoline, photocopying toners, or other substances. However, you can use this effort to encourage your members to learn about chemicals they may be exposed to. Use chemical names, not trade or code names, whenever possible to request Fact Sheets.
- Please do *not* mail the postcards directly to Fishman. We need to know how many are being sent. So please mail them to: Right to Know Coalition, c/o IUC, Third Floor, 9 East Main St., Moorestown, N.J. 08057.

***Bulk quantities of postcards are free.  
Call (609) 866-9405 for copies.  
Or see order form enclosed in this mailing.***



**IT'S STILL OUR RIGHT TO KNOW!**

# **POSTCARD ORDER FORM**

***Our union or organization would like \_\_\_\_\_ copies of postcards to Health Commissioner Fishman. We will return them to IUC in a large envelope.***

**Please print shipping information below:**

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***Union/Organization***

---

***Contact Person***

---

***Shipping Address***

---

***City***

***State***

***ZIP***

---

***Area Code/Day Phone***

***Area Code/Home Phone***

**We would prefer to pick them up at:**

\_\_\_\_\_ ***IUC (UAW), 14 Commerce Dr., Cranford (Union County).  
Call (908) 272-4200 to make arrangements.***

\_\_\_\_\_ ***IUC, 9 East Main St., Moorestown (Burlington County).  
Call (609) 866-9405 for arrangements.***

***Return this order form to: IUC, 9 East Main St., 3rd Floor, Moorestown, N.J. 08057 or FAX your order to (609) 866-9708.***



# ***Thanks...***

for participating in the Right to Know Defense Campaign.

Enclosed are the postcards you requested. Please return them to the IUC on or before *Thursday, April 20th* -- a week prior to Worker Memorial Day on Friday, April 28th when we will deliver them to Governor Whitman in Trenton.

Can your organization or union make a contribution to support our campaign to save Right to Know? If so, please make checks out to "IUC Special Projects Fund." A return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Thanks again for helping to save our Right to Know Law!

In Solidarity,

Eric Scherzer, Co-Chair, N.J. Right to Know Coalition  
Jane Nogaki, Co-Chair, N.J. Right to Know Coalition  
Sally Rees, Co-Chair, Industrial Union Council Health & Safety Committee  
Bill Kane, President, IUC  
Rick Engler, Program Director, IUC

Call (609) 866-9405 for more information.



## POSTCARD COMMITMENTS TO-DATE (PARTIAL)

Reminder: Postcards should be collected & mailed  
or delivered to IUC (not mailed in to Fishman).

Teamsters 877	350	Sally Rees, Mary Dunlevy — 908-241-4993 908-245-4175
Teamsters 560	150	Don Torino —
Teamsters 813	80	William Hanscom — 201-785-9500 (w)
UMDNJ Union Coalition	250	Jill Moscovitz — 201-982-4812
CWA 1034	600	Eileen Senn, Steve Miller — 984-2202 (w) 609-984-1863
CWA 1033	50	Pat Kollien — 609-588-3933 (w)
CWA 1031	250	Amy Bahruth — 908-274-2171 (w)
CWA 1032	50	Betty Verdejo — 609-989-8100 (w)
CWA 1062	400	Ricky Voss — 908-949-0047 (w)
CWA 1082	100	Don Rice, Phil Rubin — 908-246-5992 (w)
CWA 1060	250	Joe Fazio — 908-561-8806 (w)
Sheet Metal Workers 27	1300	Anthony Benedetti — 908-919-1999 (w)
Amalgamated Transit Union	250	Fred Wright — 201-373-2332 (w)
OCAW 8-149	200	Eric Scherzer — 908-381-6510 (w)
OCAW 8-575	200	Jim Conway, Deb Eannucci — 908-594-4535 (w) 908-477-4691
OCAW 8-438	200	Shirley Guyader — 908-940-0534
OCAW 8-397	200	Bob Beck — 908-750-6018 (w)
OCAW 8-406	50	Dan Picard — 201-858-7952 (w)
Chemical Workers Assoc.	500	Bob Gurecki, John Hall — 609-769-1346 609-678-2777 (w)
IFPTE 195	200	Lisa Krongold — 908-390-0350



UAW Region 9 & Locals	2000	Bill Kane - 908-272-4200 (w)
UAW 260	50	Gates Baines - 908-287-4632 (w)
WAAC & UAW 595	200	Millie Ruzich - 908-417-9031
Aluminum, Brick & Glass Workers	200	John Shinn - 609-764-1492
Glass Molders 236A	350	Frank Carpenter, Bruce Crowe - 609-965-2606 609-965-3150
Glass Molders 175	400	Jim Moody, Ron Czyzewski - 609-588-6780
Glass Molders 7 & 219	200	Frank Grotti, Herb Hoover - 609-825-7149 (H) 609-825-1400 x 2502 (w)
Glass Molders 157	200	Don Crum, Patrick Flanigan - 609-453-1363
AFSCME Council 1 & Locals	2000	Sherryl Gordon - 609-587-5000 (w)
AFSCME 88	100	Terry Woodrow - 609-547-5413 (w)
AFT-New Jersey	200	Joe Hunt - 609-278-1183 (w)
Bakery Workers 719	250	201-794-4095 T Gobbo, Jessie Hines, Loretta Armstrong 201-794-4000 x 5227 201-794-4000
Iron Workers 480	150	John Malcom - 908-352-8245 (w)
Bayway Employees Salary Union	150	Ralph Maglio - 908-523-6019
Machinists 2537	80	
UFCW 1262	250	Harvey Whille - 800-562-6913 (w)
IBEW 827/Vol. Firefighters	200	Kurt Vreeland - 201-768-9106 (H)
IBEW 827	100	Bob Spillane - 908-363-0288 (w)
Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Assoc.	200+	Don Huber - 201-705-5017 (BEEPER)
New Jersey Environmental Federation	300	Amy Goldsmith - 908-846-4224
New Jersey Environmental Federation	300	Jane Nogaki - 609-767-1110
Arthur Kill Watershed Association	300	Bob Harsell, Luette Cuchiaro - 908-388-8848 (w)
Skylands Clean	30	Jon Berry - 201-839-8014 (w)



**Trout Unlimited**

**30**

**Jamis Cohoon** - 201-444-7497 (w)

**250**

**David Tykulsker** - 201-622-4545 (w)

**50**

**Kevin O'Brien** - 212-602-5806 (w)

**20**

**Katherine Caputo (Tabernacle School Dis)**  
609-268-0145 (w)



*Followup because WUP was  
too complicated to many  
messages*

# **PRESS RELEASE**

**from the New Jersey Industrial Union Council, AFL-CIO**

*EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UNTIL  
SUNDAY APRIL 30, 1995*

Contact:

Rick Engler, Vice President  
(609) 866-9405  
(609) 866-9362 home

## **4,000 NEW JERSEY WORKERS AND CITIZENS REQUEST INFORMATION ON CHEMICAL HAZARDS UNDER STATE RIGHT TO KNOW LAW;**

In the largest coordinated use of the New Jersey Worker and Community chemical Right to Know law since its passage in 1983, 4,000 workers and other New Jersey citizens have sent the New Jersey Department of Health (DOH) requests for information about the health and safety of hazardous substances and for an explanation of chemical labeling rules. Under New Jersey's Worker and Community Right to Know Law, the Health Department is legally required to respond to these requests for chemical information by sending Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets. These Fact Sheets provide vital data on 1,045 different chemicals, explaining their impact on health, their potential to ignite or explode, and safe handling measures. Firefighters, industrial workers, physicians, and school teachers find the Fact Sheets invaluable. However, Governor Whitman's proposed 36% cut in the State Right to Know Program budget will stop the Health Department from producing many of these Fact Sheets, forcing the public to rely on chemical industry produced material safety data sheets that are often incomplete, biased, and confusing. In addition, Whitman's proposed cuts will eliminate the Department of Health's production of many Spanish language Fact Sheets, taking away crucial information from Spanish speaking workers.

The explosion at Napp Technologies in Lodi on April 21st that killed four people is the most recent and deadly example of chemical catastrophes in New Jersey. While the investigation continues, every expert at the scene pointed out the hazards of mixing water with the chemicals smoldering in the mixing vat. The 235,000 member New Jersey Industrial Union Council, AFL-CIO (IUC), calls on Governor Whitman to strengthen the Worker and Community Right to

**more**



Know Act. The IUC calls for completion of all of the Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets (for approximately 2,500 different chemicals) in English and Spanish as required by **current** law. In the twelve years since passage of the Act, only 1,045 Fact Sheets in English and 245 Fact Sheets in Spanish have been produced.

Bill Kane, President of the IUC, said "It is outrageous that in the dozen years since the Act was passed, less than 1/2 of the required Fact Sheets have been issued by the Department of Health. The tragedy at Lodi demands that Governor Whitman fully fund the state Right to Know Program to finish the job required by law." The IUC is also calling on the Governor to promote legislation requiring that all New Jersey private sector employers distribute and use Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets in their existing training programs to better protect worker health and the environment."

Submission of the 4,000 Right to Know requests to N.J. Health Commissioner Leonard Fishman is part of an effort by the New Jersey Industrial Union Council, AFL-CIO to educate union members about the use and importance of the state Right to Know Law and to defend the law from industry attacks. Local union leaders at about 75 workplaces with potential toxic hazards asked their members to fill out a form indicating what chemicals they were concerned about and what Fact Sheets they wanted from the DOH. Workers requested information on hundreds of different chemicals, including asbestos, fiberglass, mercury, toluene, formaldehyde, acetone, epoxy, xylene, hydrochloric acid, and photocopying toners. Many also requested an explanation of the state's "universal labeling" rules, which require the real chemical name, not a secret code, to be on container labels.

According to IUC President Bill Kane, "These requests for chemical hazard information clearly demonstrates the concern of working people for a safe work environment; that they will not tolerate Governor Whitman's attempt to dismantle our Right to Know Act to please big business."

Sally Rees, Chair of the Teamsters Local 877 Safety & Health Committee at the Tosco Bayway oil refinery in Linden said "The explosion at NAPP Technologies suggests that

**more**

Governor Whitman should be strengthening our safety and health laws, not gutting them."

Kevin O'Brien, whose father Vincent O'Brien died at age 58 due to on-the-job chemical exposure, said "We need Governor Whitman to adequately fund, not slash, the budget of the Right to Know Program. We need Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets on more chemicals."

Jane Nogaki, Co-Chair of the state Right to Know Coalition, an alliance of over 100 environmental, firefighter, labor, and public health organizations, said that "Workers are the first line of defense for the environment. If Governor Whitman takes away worker right-to-know, neighborhood residents will suffer more fires, explosions, and pollution."

Unions participating in the Industrial Union Council educational campaign include affiliates of the Oil, Chemical, & Atomic Workers, Communications Workers, Teamsters, Sheet Metal Workers, Bakery Workers, Glass Molders, Auto Workers, Aluminum, Brick & Glass Workers, Rubber Workers, Ladies Garment Workers, Amalgamated Clothing & Textile Workers, Teachers, Electronics Workers & Firefighters. The New Jersey Environmental Federation also participated by asking their members to request Fact Sheets on pesticides (such as carbaryl, a mutagen), weed killers (like 2,4D, a suspected carcinogen), and mercury (which accumulates in fish and humans).

Despite fierce opposition by the chemical industry, the Worker and Community Right to Know Act was signed into law by Republican Governor Tom Kean in 1983. The law requires labeling of chemicals, production of Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets, employer reporting of chemical use, and public employee training. In 1993 a chemical industry written bill sponsored by Assemblymen Joseph Doria and Robert Shinn (now the DEP Commissioner charged with enforcing part of the Right to Know Act) was defeated by opposition from labor, firefighters, and public health and environmental organizations).

**Additional information on Gov. Whitman's attack on the Right to Know Act can be obtained from IUC Vice President Rick Engler at (609) 866-9405 or (609) 866-9362 (home).**

# ***PRESS RELEASE***

**from the New Jersey Industrial Union Council, AFL-CIO**

*FOR RELEASE*

*THURSDAY MAY 4, 1995*

Contact:

Rick Engler, Vice President  
(609) 866-9405  
(609) 866-9362 home  
after 4 P.M.

## **3,000 NEW JERSEY WORKERS AND CITIZENS REQUEST INFORMATION ON CHEMICAL HAZARDS UNDER STATE RIGHT TO KNOW LAW**

In the largest coordinated use of the New Jersey Worker and Community chemical Right to Know law since its passage in 1983, 3,000 workers and other New Jersey citizens have sent the New Jersey Department of Health (DOH) requests for information about the health and safety of hazardous substances and for an explanation of chemical labeling rules. Under New Jersey's Worker and Community Right to Know Law, the Health Department is legally required to respond to these requests for chemical information by sending Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets. These Fact Sheets provide vital data on 1,045 different chemicals. They explain their impact on health, what poison gases they give off when they burn, their potential to ignite or explode, and safe handling and firefighting measures. Firefighters, industrial workers, physicians, and school teachers find the Fact Sheets invaluable. However, Governor Whitman's proposed 36% cut in the State Right to Know Program budget will stop the Health Department from producing many of these Fact Sheets, forcing the public to rely on chemical industry produced material safety data sheets that are often incomplete, inaccurate, confusing, and hard to obtain. In addition, Whitman's proposed cuts will eliminate the Department of Health's production of many Spanish language Fact Sheets, taking away crucial information from Spanish speaking workers.

The explosion at NAPP Technologies in Lodi on April 21st that killed five people is the most recent and deadly example of chemical catastrophes in New Jersey. While the investigations by OSHA and EPA on the cause of the tragedy continue, it should be noted that the DOH Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets on aluminum and sodium dithionate (sodium hydrosulfite) indicate the hazards of mixing water with these two chemicals that were

***MORE***



smoldering in the mixing vat. The 235,000 member New Jersey Industrial Union Council, AFL-CIO (IUC), calls on Governor Whitman to strengthen the Worker and Community Right to Know Act. The IUC calls for completion of all of the Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets (for approximately 2,500 different chemicals) in English and Spanish as required by **current** law. In the twelve years since passage of the Act, only 1,045 Fact Sheets in English and 245 Fact Sheets in Spanish have been produced.

Bill Kane, President of the IUC, said "It is outrageous that in the dozen years since the Act was passed, less than 1/2 of the required Fact Sheets have been issued by the Department of Health. The tragedy at Lodi demands that Governor Whitman fully fund the state Right to Know Program to finish the job required by law. The IUC is also calling on the Governor to promote legislation requiring that all New Jersey private sector employers distribute and use Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets in their existing training programs to better protect worker health, firefighters, and the environment. These Fact Sheets belong in the hands of every worker that must deal with such chemicals. And if the worker's first language is Spanish, like many of the NAPP workers, the Fact Sheets must be in Spanish."

Submission of the 3,000 Right to Know requests to N.J. Health Commissioner Leonard Fishman is part of a campaign by the New Jersey Industrial Union Council, AFL-CIO to educate union members about the use and importance of the state Right to Know Law and to defend the law from industry attacks. Local union leaders at about 75 workplaces with potential toxic hazards asked their members to fill out a form indicating what chemicals they were concerned about and what Fact Sheets they wanted from the DOH. Workers requested information on hundreds of different chemicals, including asbestos, fiberglass, mercury, toluene, formaldehyde, acetone, epoxy, xylene, hydrochloric acid, and photocopying toners. Many also requested an explanation of the state's "universal labeling" rules, which require the real chemical name, not a secret code, to be on container labels. The educational campaign began in February, 1995.

According to IUC President Bill Kane, "These requests for chemical hazard information clearly demonstrates the concern of working people for a safe work environment. They will

***MORE***

not tolerate Governor Whitman's attempt to dismantle our Right to Know Act to please big business."

Sally Rees, Chair of the Teamsters Local 877 Safety & Health Committee at the Tosco Bayway oil refinery in Linden said "The explosion at NAPP Technologies suggests that Governor Whitman should be strengthening our safety and health laws, not gutting them." Kevin O'Brien, whose father Vincent O'Brien died at age 58 due to on-the-job chemical exposure, said "We need Governor Whitman to adequately fund, not slash, the budget of the Right to Know Program. We need Fact Sheets on more, not fewer, chemicals."

Jane Nogaki, Co-Chair of the state Right to Know Coalition, an alliance of over 100 environmental, firefighter, labor, and public health organizations, said that "Workers are the first line of defense for the environment. If Governor Whitman takes away worker right-to-know, neighborhood residents will suffer more fires, explosions, and pollution."

Unions participating in the Industrial Union Council educational campaign include affiliates of the Oil, Chemical, & Atomic Workers, Communications Workers, Teamsters, Sheet Metal Workers, Bakery Workers, Glass Molders, Auto Workers, Aluminum, Brick & Glass Workers, Rubber Workers, Ladies Garment Workers, Amalgamated Clothing & Textile Workers, Teachers, Electronics Workers & Firefighters. The New Jersey Environmental Federation also participated by asking their members to request Fact Sheets on pesticides (such as carbaryl, a mutagen), weed killers (like 2,4D, a suspected carcinogen), and mercury (which accumulates in fish and humans). Despite fierce opposition by the chemical industry, the Worker and Community Right to Know Act was signed into law by Republican Governor Tom Kean in 1983. The law requires labeling of chemicals, production of Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets, employer reporting of chemical use, and public employee training. In 1993 a chemical industry written bill sponsored by Assemblymen Joseph Doria and Robert Shinn (now the DEP Commissioner charged with enforcing part of the Right to Know Act) was defeated by opposition from labor, firefighters, and public health and environmental organizations).

**Additional information on Gov. Whitman's attack on the Right to Know Act can be obtained from IUC Vice President Rick Engler at (609) 866-9405 or (609) 866-9362 (home).**

*Mailed*

August 4, 1995

Richard Willinger, Esq.  
Program Manager  
Right to Know Program  
CN 368  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0368

Dear Mr. Willinger,

I am requesting information on the **Right to Know Program** and the recent requests to your office for **Right to Know** information. Please provide the following information.

- 1) The total number of IUC printed postcard requests for Hazardous Substance Factsheets (HSFS) or labeling information received by the DOH to date.
- 2) The number of requests that have been answered to date.
- 3) What were the five most frequently requested HSFS?
- 4) A list of the chemicals for which HSFS were requested but were not available.
- 5) A list of chemicals for which HSFS in Spanish were requested but were not available.
- 6) Has the Fiberglass Fact Sheet been updated? If so, please provide a copy. If not, what is your schedule for revising it in light of new toxicology data concerning fiberglass as a potential carcinogen.



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- 7) Please include a current schedule for additional Fact Sheet production.
- 8) If form letters were used in replying to any requests, please provide one copy of each form letter used.

Sincerely,

Rick Engler  
Vice President

RE:emr  
wilnger



State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN  
Governor

CN 360  
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0360

LEN FISHMAN  
Commissioner

November 17, 1995

Rick Engler, Program Director  
NJ State Industrial Union Council, AFL-CIO  
9 East Main Street, 3rd Floor  
Moorestown, NJ 08057-3309

Dear Mr. Engler:

The following are responses to your questions about the requests for Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets received from members of the IUC:

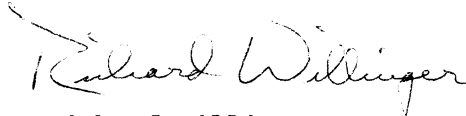
1. The number of IUC printed postcard requests for Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets or labeling information received by the Department of Health was approximately 4,000.
2. Approximately 3,000 of the requests have been answered to date.
3. The five most frequently requested Fact Sheets were Fibrous Glass (also called Fiberglass), 2,4-D (2,4-Dichlorophenoxy Acetic Acid), Mercury, Formaldehyde, and MTBE (Methyl-tert-Butyl Ether).
4. Some of the requested chemicals for which Fact Sheets were not available were for generic categories of chemicals or for chemicals which were not listed on the RTK Hazardous Substance List and for which Fact Sheets would not be prepared. The chemicals requested which are on the RTKHSL and for which no Fact Sheets were available included Dicamba, Uranium, Methyl Fluoride, Methyl Ether and several for which only one or two requests were made.
5. We received few, if any, requests for Spanish Fact Sheets, and I believe we had all of these.
6. The Fiberglass Fact Sheet is in the process of being revised and should be finalized by January 1996.

Mr. Rick Engler  
Page 2  
November 17, 1995

7. The Right to Know Program plans to revise 100 Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets per year beginning with Fiscal Year 1996 (July 1, 1995 - June 30, 1996) and to keep 500 Fact Sheets on a five-year update cycle so that no one is more than five years old. Update information on the other 545 Fact Sheets will be provided if requested.
8. Form letters were not used to reply to requests. The enclosed pre-printed note was sent with the appropriate Fact Sheets, or brochure about labeling, to requesters.

If you have any further inquiries, please call me at (609) 984-2202.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard Willinger".

Richard Willinger  
Program Manager  
Right to Know Program

Enclosure  
c: Kathleen O'Leary