December 16, 1992

My name is Ken Gronewald, I am the current President of the St. Charles Countians Against Hazardous Waste Board of Directors.

This is sort of a historic meeting - the last public one on Weldon Spring. I was also at the first one 10 years ago at Francis Howell High School. I live in O'Fallon and worked at the plant site when the Army tried to clean it up in the late 1960s. They wanted to clean up three buildings so they could make agent-orange there. I guess it's lucky for us that they couldn't clean it up or we would have dioxin out there too!

After years of going to all kinds of meetings about what DOE planned to do at Weldon Spring - it feels good to be at this point. Our group has always tried to learn as much as we could so we could understand the problems involved. Over the years we have made suggestions which have been acted on which made us feel like our opinions counted. It wasn't always like that, in the beginning DOE thought they knew it all. They didn't know what to do with us, we probably felt like a thorn in their side.

All that changed after the last big meeting in 1987 when 1,500 people turned out. Then DOE got new people with better attitudes, a new contractor, and everything changed for the better. They started cleaning up contaminated buildings and other projects that could be done in the short run. Now with all the work they have

done to produce their reports for this meeting they are ready to roll into high gear and really clean-up the place. I'm glad I got to be involved and I'd like to say it's been good working with you. I hope we can continue.

Kenneth F. Grossewald