

MEMO FROM  
J. LEDERBERG  
GENETICS DEPARTMENT  
STANFORD UNIVERSITY  
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

TO:  
Congressman Reuss

TX  
RC  
RO

?Hazards of NTA

JUN 30 1970

Dear Mr. Reuss--

(Quite possibly your staff has already brought these articles to your attention.) If it is possible to sustain the same cogent effort in the difficult and costly task of adequate treatment of effluents over the next 10 to 20 years, it is even possible that the Great Lakes may be restored to the wonderful assets they once were. Having lived in Wisconsin for 12 years, as you know, I can well understand the urgency of your concerns, and of course share them.

I am writing now to stress that there are many unanswered questions about the large-scale use of NTA, which are glossed over rather than answered by the work that has been published so far. To answer them properly will take more research money and more time than seems to be available now.

Do you know Dr. Marvin Legator at the FDA? He is a good friend of mine, a knowledgeable scientist, and has particularly involved himself in the evaluation of NTA. (He may already be well known to you as a leading figure in the critical re-evaluation of cyclamates.) I believe you would find it a very valuable use of your time to consult with him about the subtleties of the NTA problem. (May I say for the record that this suggestion is my own initiative.)

NTA may be proven safe, eventually, but it will take a while to do the essential testing. Meanwhile, I believe there are many sounder alternatives for detergent-building, e.g. citrates, about which no toxicological issue could possibly be raised.

Sincerely

*Joshua Lederberg*