

LAW, LOVE & HOOKER

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The cliché of man's technology outpacing his medical and social skills and scientific understanding often presents itself in very real ways. The consequences of earlier technological misjudgements are now appearing across the country in the form of improperly managed hazardous waste dumps. While scientists and engineers work to resolve the health and safety problems, the courts are struggling to apply new statutes and old common law to the legal issues created by these practices.

Of the more recent disasters of this kind is one of the most highly publicized and unusual cases, the dump site at Love Canal, New York. Due to the proximity of valuable natural resources such as the Niagara River, and the proximity and nature of the resident human population, the case of Love Canal presents some very interesting legal problems. The resolution of these problems may well set a standard for cases of this kind which are certain to arise in the future as more dumps are discovered.

It is the purpose of this thesis to analyze the available data and reports, determine what likely conclusions can be drawn from the available information, and finally determine what legal remedies are available and justified in this case and cases like it.