August 24, 1989

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chris Root
FROM: Ann M. Werboff
      Shell Boycott Campaign
RE: Lansing Board of Water and Light

According to Coal Week, the Lansing Board of Water and Light has an agreement with Shell Mining for the purchase of coal from Pike County Coal. In January of this year, Coal Week reported that Shell Mining had agreed to supply the Lansing Board with 21,000 tons/month of first quarter coal. The Board’s average coal contract lasts two - five years.

The Lansing Board of Water and Light is a publicly-owned utility which services a population of approximately 85,000 in the Greater Lansing area. The Board employees 956 people, of which 540 are represented by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Policy for the Board is set by an eight-member board of commissioners (see attached list) who are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. Purchasing policies are decided by a simple majority vote. The board of commissioners meets the fourth Tuesday of each month to establish policy and act upon recommendations. These meetings, which are public, are held at the Board’s office at 125 West Ottawa, Lansing, Michigan 48933.
As a bulk purchaser of Shell products, the Lansing Board of Water and Light could be encouraged to become "Shell-Free" by prohibiting Shell purchases. Depending on the nature of the Board's current contract with Shell, the present contract may have to be excluded. However, a policy that would prohibit the renewal and/or extension of this contract and any future contracts for Shell products could be instituted by the Board.

Several cities throughout the country have already passed prohibitions on the purchase of Shell products. Mayor Flynn in Boston issued an executive order to this effect and the Takoma Park, Maryland City Council did likewise. The Berkeley City Council declared Berkeley a "Shell-Free" city. (Attached are copies for your reference.)

As a major supplier of oil to the South African government and the military and police, Royal Dutch/Shell is the target of an international boycott because of its investments in South Africa. The severing of bulk purchases, such as those by the Lansing Board of Water and Light, is an important and effective way to express our abhorrence of apartheid by financially impacting upon Shell, one of the foreign corporations which support and profit from the racist system of apartheid.

AMW/mg

Enclosures
Phillip E. Hassler, Chairman
Manager of Financial Reporting
Buick, Oldsmobile, Cadillac

Jack R. Sebolt, Vice Chairman
National Business Representative
National Association of Letter Carriers

Gerald W. Williams, Chairman Pro Tem.
Director, Office Management Practices
State of Michigan

Sister Mary Janice Belin, R.S.M.
Religious Sister of Mercy
Retired, former director of St. Lawrence Hospital

Dr. Eva L. Evans
Deputy Superintendent
Lansing School District

E. Lane Jessop
Owner
Lane Jessop Insurance Agency

Bruce E. McComb
Regional Manager
Sage Systems

R. John Strolle
General Manager
Kositcheks Men's Apparel