

DEBBY

24 July 2000

Laudente T. Quintana  
Mayor of Wagon Mound  
PO Box 87  
Wagon Mound, New Mexico 87752

RECEIVED  
JUL 27 2000  
MAYOR'S OFFICE

Dear Mayor Quintana,

I attended the Mora County Planning and Zoning meeting 11 July 2000, and spoke to the committee regarding my concern about the proposed hauling of debris from the Los Alamos fire sites to the Wagon Mound landfill owned by Harold Daniels. As I mentioned during my presentation, I am concerned about the level of contamination in the debris. While soil, ash, and other burned materials appear benign, they can contain many contaminants that eventually make their way into the ground water, soil and air of our otherwise clean environment in Mora County from the heavy metals, toxic chemicals, and radioactive materials.

In industrial areas, companies sell their chemical residues to cement plants who in turn incinerate the toxic waste. The ash from the incinerators are then buried in landfills. This ash is heavily contaminated. In a fire such as Los Alamos, the proximity to the lab no doubt has contributed to considerable contamination from their use of radioactive materials in the area, as well as the burying of other toxic materials in landfills which burned and released contaminants to the air, water and soil during the Los Alamos area fire this summer.

A front page article in the Albuquerque Journal July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2000, headlined the contamination of the groundwater in a Pueblo Canyon well from the chemical perchlorate. Linked to the chemicals that have been dumped in five Los Alamos canyons over time, this chemical causes changes in the thyroid gland that can dampen production of hormones needed for metabolism and development. According to the article, today, the Los Alamos lab flushes liquid waste containing perchlorate into Mortandad Canyon at levels up to 66 parts per billion which is almost four times the health advisory level of 18 ppb at which California regulators advise water systems to shut down. Also recorded, state water scientists reported finding levels of radioactive tritium and strontium-90 in wells in the same Pueblo Canyon well water. Radioactive materials are known to cause cancer in humans and animals.

I am concerned that the debris from Los Alamos is being shuttled to Wagon Mound with the hopes that no one will notice and the "problem" will be taken care of temporarily ie. removing the debris from Los Alamos. I would like to recommend that no materials from the Los Alamos fire sites be accepted at the Wagon Mound landfill until all studies and measures have been taken to ensure all debris is not



13418

RED LANE G/P/100

TK

PO BOX 67 OCASTE NM 87734 505 666 2529

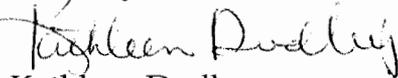
Page 2  
24 July 2000  
Mayor Quintana

contaminated with heavy metals, toxic chemicals, and radioactive materials without the appropriate methods for handling and disposing such contaminated materials as regulated by the Federal Government. This brings me to question whether heavy metals, toxic chemicals such as perchlorate, for example, or low levels of tritium and strontium-90 have been approved for the Wagon Mound landfill?

The answer for the people living in Mora County is prevention, not scientific hand-wringing after the fact. There are generations of children yet to thrive in Mora County. Let's give them the right to live healthy lives.

Thank you and I appreciate being kept informed of your investigation.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Dudley

cc: City Council of Wagon Mound  
Lawrence Martinez PO BOX 38  
Corrine Duran PO 28  
Leroy Ledoux PO 94  
Floyd Woods (PO Box 296

County Commissioners/Mora  
Emma Duran-Buck  
Rosalie Regensberg  
Juan Espinoza

County Manager/Land Use Administrator/Mora  
Charlie Padilla

County Planning and Zoning Committee/Mora  
Louis Mares  
John Harrison  
Jacob Regensberg  
Lionor Maestas  
Willy Romero

State Environment Department  
Hazardous and Radioactive Material Bureau/  
Program Manager  
Debbie Brinkerhoff

USEPA/Region 6  
David Neligh