

John

July 7, 1989

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EID DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Richard Mitzelfelt, Director EID'
1190 St. Francis Dr.
Santa Fe, N.M. 87503

Dear Sir:

I understand that you have the authority, under the New Mexico Air Quality Act, to prevent the burning of radioactive waste until regulation standards can be adopted.

It is imperative for the health and safety of all New Mexicans -- and our environment--that you include not only hazardous waste, but radioactive waste as well in your hearings since they are both very dangerous to plants, animals and humans; certainly, radioactive waste has even far greater ramifications, since it can remain in the environment for centuries!

It is my understanding that it takes only one millionth of a gram of plutonium in my lungs to give me a 50/50 chance of getting cancer and with a history of cancer in my family, my chances could even be higher--a chance I do not wish to take.

Please issue an emergency order (under section 74-2-10 of the Air Quality Act) to prevent all burning of radioactive waste, until standards can be adopted to regulated such burning. This certainly sounds like the sane, responsible thing to do, wouldn't you agree? We are playing with very dangerous toys, Mr. Mitzelfelt and we must make sure we do not further endanger our environment--we have enough toxins and pollutants to deal with already! Finally, why is the Los Alamos incinerator exempted from any future regulations--it sounds like a copout to me. Since they will be burning toxins and radioactive wastes, surely regulations are needed!

Sincerely,
Rosemary Lowe
Rosemary Lowe, M.A.
404 La Placita Circle
Santa Fe, N.M. 87501

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