

HUGH K. JENNINGS
329 Sanchez St.
Santa Fe, NM 87501
10 July 1989

Mr. Richard Mitzelfelt
Director, Environmental Improvement Division

Dear Sir:

I am a retired nuclear engineer from Los Alamos, having been a staff member there for twenty five years. I write to urge you to deny to LANL the permit to incinerate hazardous waste at their site. A new era of concern for public health and safety has arrived, and is long overdue. For many years this concern had low priority in DOE, as they admit, as compared to "national security".

In recent years the incineration of radioactive, hazardous, and municipal waste has gained popularity, with disastrous results. Some results of the industrial incineration of hazardous waste are summarized by the Citizens Clearing House for Hazardous Waste, Inc., PO Box 926, Arlington, VA 22216. They list 32 industrial sites as examples of the failures of this technology. This list includes accounts of violations of regulations, fires, explosions, spills, threats to public health and general mismanagement. Their findings are summarized in a guidebook: Hazardous Waste Incineration, The Burning Issue.

Recently Livermore National Laboratory proposed a huge incinerator of toxic and radioactive waste, which would generate two million pounds of radioactive ash each year. Fortunately the residents of the area persuaded enough public officials, including California congressmen, to deny the laboratory's proposal.

Los Alamos National Laboratory has a very checkered past in the management of waste disposal. I refer you to an investigative report in the Albuquerque Journal, starting 7 Oct 1979, a series of eight articles. These detail a history of confused regulations, spills, and

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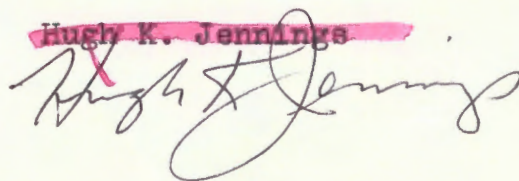
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leaks of radioactive materials, both planned and unplanned. They document contamination into the Rio Grande, the soil, and the air of these materials. This account gives me great doubt about LANL's abilities and philosophies about waste management.

I would appreciate your including these comments in the proceedings of the hearing on the incineration permit, scheduled for 18 July 1989.

Sincerely yours,

~~Hugh K. Jennings~~

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hugh K. Jennings", written over a pinked-out typed name.