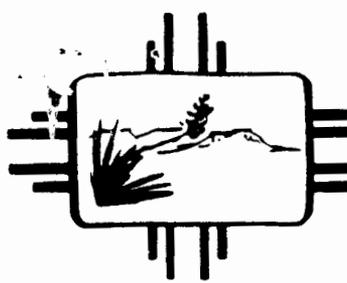


red



New Mexico Health and Environment Department

MARALYN BUDKE
Acting Secretary
CARLA L. MUTH
Deputy Secretary
MICHAEL J. BURKHART
Deputy Secretary
RICHARD MITZELFELT
Director

July 24, 1989

Mr. Bill Gallagher
Section Chief
U.S. EPA Region VI (6H-PS)
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202

RE: LANL Permit
NM 0890010515-1

Dear Mr. Gallagher:

Enclosed for your information are copies of six letters from the public which convey the essence of all the comments received to date. If you have any questions call me at (505) 827-2923.

Sincerely,

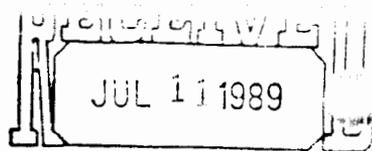
C. Kelley Crossman
Supervisor
Hazardous Waste Program

CKC:vga

Enclosure



TR



EID DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

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.

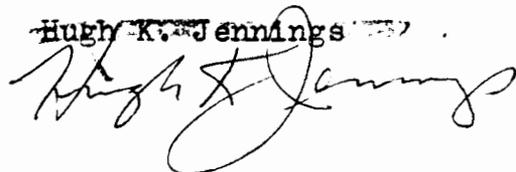
Los Alamos National Laboratory has a very checkered past in the management of waste disposal. I refer you to an investigative report in the Albuquerque Journal, starting 7 Oct 1979, a series of eight articles. These detail a history of confused regulations, spills, and

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.

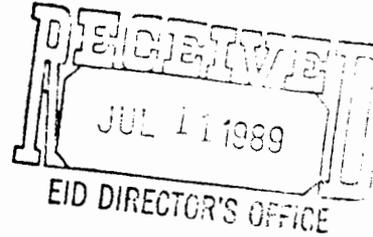
I would appreciate your including these comments in the proceedings of the hearing on the incineration permit, scheduled for 18 July 1989.

Sincerely yours,

~~Hugh K. Jennings~~

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hugh K. Jennings", written over the typed name.

July 7, 1989



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,

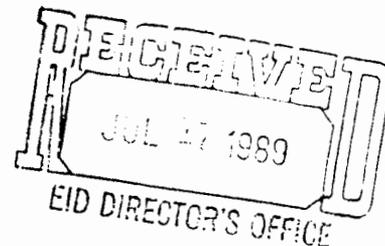

~~Rosemary Lowe, M.A.~~

~~1441 Placita Circle~~

~~Santa Fe, N.M. 87501~~

July 13, 1989

Richard Mitzelfelt
Director, NMEID
1190 St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87503

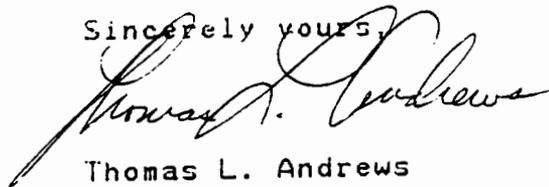


Dear Mr. Mitzelfelt:

As an ardent supporter of your Agency's mission, I request that you consider the prudence of tabling the LANL Radiological and Hazardous Waste Incinerator application citing the emergency provision of Section 74-2-10. There is activity at the DOE Headquarters level to invigorate the continuing work involving on-site processes of a non-burning nature. It would be of great assistance to this newly recognized development, if you enacted the emergency provision. Also, the interest of integrated regulation of radiological and hazardous wastes would be served by such an action.

I also petition you to consider the research exemption which LANL Incinerator as an unfortunate condition, and not the desired one. I urge you to consult with Colorado and Ohio to compare experiences in dealing with federal facilities and laboratories so you can obtain a clear direction on access and control as related to your Agency's responsibility for public health.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas L. Andrews
814 Fayette Street
Santa Fe, NM 87501

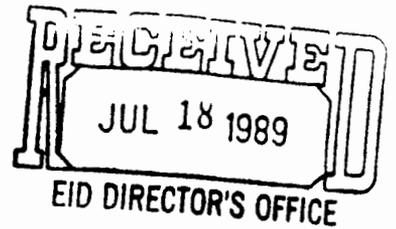
Kelley

Robert Walsh
RT 3 Box 196B
Española, NM 87532

Called 7/18 -

Protest Hank Permit because
DOE has not shown good faith a
audience at Rocky Flats.

etc, etc,



Richard Mitzelfelt Director
ENVIRONMENTAL "IMPROVEMENT" DIVISION
1190 St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87503

Sir:

How ironic that you {^{supervise} allow} such planetary
destruction under the name of "improvement".

If you are truly interested in protecting
the environment, then show it:

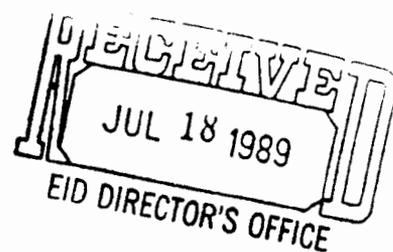
- Prevent burning of radioactive waste
at least until the state adopts regulations
according to public input
- Hold adequate hearings on both hazardous
and radioactive permits.
- Contain the greedy, selfish interests of the
U of C junta — LANL MUST be
regulated.

Preserve the earth. You have no right to
destroy it.

Connie Janssens



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P.O. BOX 16191 • SANTA FE, NM • 87506 • 505 986 0376



Mr. Richard Mitzelfelt
Director, Environmental Improvement Division
1190 St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

17 July, 1989

Dear Mr. Mitzelfelt,

As a citizen with two small children, I wanted to enter my opinion on the burning (at Los Alamos National Laboratories) of Radioactive and Hazardous Chemical Waste.

Currently this is permitted under a "Temporary Permit", and the Lab is trying to obtain a "Final Permit" BEFORE State regulations on incinerators go into effect.

As even a small amount of radioactive material released into the air can cause cancer, I do NOT want radioactive waste incinerated in New Mexico. Living or working in Santa Fe, as you do, with your proximity to the lab, I would think you probably understand this concern.

I request an Emergency Order (by authority of the New Mexico Air Quality Control Act) to prevent the burning of radioactive waste until the State sets standards on this. I also request that any hearings on the incinerator at Los Alamos National Labs take into account both chemical waste and radioactive waste, so that we are not "hit" down the road with large numbers of sick and deformed children, high incidences of cancer, etcetera.

I am looking forward to hearing back from you on this.

Sincerely,

Howard Shube
Shube's Manufacturing, Inc.