

July 24, 1989



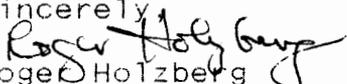
Dear Mr. Mitzelfelt:

I write this letter as a concerned resident, parent and businessman. As a screen writer/director, I have had 2 films produced in the last year and am currently developing a project with Moctesuma Esparza (Milagro Beanfield War, Ballad of Gregorio Cortez, Agueda Martinez). In the delicate process of choosing a location for a film, which can bring millions of dollars to a state, the incineration of dangerous waste from LANL represents a severe deterrent to the state of New Mexico. If our economy loses even 1 film per year, at 2 million dollars to our economy per film, for the next 50 years, then we lose 100 million dollars toward our future.

My education in Department of Energy (D.O.E.) sanctioned projects and how Americans fare in the aftermath began while I was writing a docu-drama called "Desert Fire". This script dealt with another D.O.E. sanctioned project, the atomic testing program at Yucca Flat, where during the 1950's about a quarter of a million men and women were exposed to "safe" levels of radiation. As I interviewed members of the program and did research through the National Center for Disease Control, I learned that since the program ended nearly 40 percent of these participants have developed cancer, leukemia, sterility, birth defects and a host of other radiation related illnesses. The D.O.E. had sanctioned the project, scientists and medical experts of the day had sanctioned the project, and today a group of Americans the size of the city of Santa Fe are dead, dying or ill. One accident, one mistake, one oversight could fill our future with disaster.

Today, the D.O.E. and the scientists of the day tell us that incineration of this waste is safe. When it comes to the lives of my family, my friends and employees, I am not willing to gamble that they will be wrong again.

Please issue an emergency order to prevent the burning of radioactive waste until the state of New Mexico can adopt standards in a public forum to regulate it. Any hearing relating to incineration must include both hazardous waste and radioactive permits. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Roger Holzberg
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

P.S. Supercompaction is a viable alternative to incineration, is less costly and most importantly does not result in any airborne releases of hazardous or radioactive materials.

TC



8563