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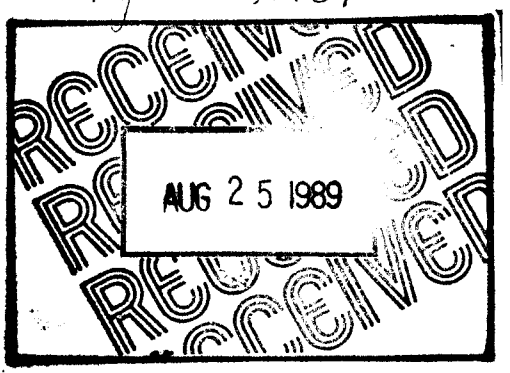

To whom it may concern:

I feel cheated, betrayed and experimented on by the U.S. Government and the State of New Mexico!

I am appauled that with the help of EPA, DOE and EID that LANL has continued to burn hazardous and radioactive waste for nine years without public knowledge or consent. I consider this to be a crime since it puts the public at extreme health risk and it has produced an environmental catastrophy.

I'm sure that since the 1940's LANL and the DOE have hid many things from the public - which the public would not approve of. But - it shocks me that a scientific community such as LANL continues to carry out such dangerous experiments.

The EID and EPA do not have enough or adequate information or regulations to safely run incinerations.

The EPA and EID have not done an adequate job of protecting our health and environment. These organizations have continued to "keep quiet" about conditions at LANL that will now require $2 billion to clean up.

I feel incineration is just another way

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to hide from the public what "monsters" LANL has created.

I feel incineration would be the perfect "out" for the agencies to hide any failures of the past. This "out-of-site out-of-mind" philosophy is a way to hide any evidence which could be held against them.

Incineration seems absurd to me because it not only fails to destroy radioactive particles and heavy metal wastes, it will produce its own hazardous wastes in form of combustion by-products like furans and dioxins. Incineration also releases radioactive particles into the air which make them even more dangerous and impossible to contain.

Dr. Dean Abrahamson of the University of Minnesota who is a radiation expert says "plutonium is remarkably toxic." "Unlike other kinds of radiation, the alpha particles it generates travel only inches and cannot penetrate skin of a sheet of paper. But if inhaled, swallowed or absorbed into the bloodstream through a cut, an amount as small as one-millionth of a gram can cause cancer", Abrahamson said. ©

Australian pediatrician, Dr. Helen Caldicott says "Plutonium has a half life of 24,400 years. That means it is not biodegradable; you can't get rid of it." ©

She says "We're talking about a substance that is so incredibly toxic that everybody who

comes into contact with it and gets it into their lungs will die of lung cancer." ③

She also says "If I die of a lung cancer produced by plutonium, and I'm cremated, the smoke goes out the chimney with the plutonium to be breathed into somebody else's lungs - ad infinitum for half a million years." ④

Inhalation of a millionth of a gram of Plutonium is known to cause massive fibrosis of the lungs and death within hours or days. A trillionth of a gram has caused cancer in laboratory mice." ⑤

"Plutonium is the most carcinogenic or cancer producing substances we have ever known. It is so toxic that people who've worked with it say they can't find a low enough dose which won't give every dog they put it into lung cancer." Dr. Helen Caldicott states. ⑥

Doesn't it seem suicidal to burn radioactive waste?

Scientist conducting research for the EPA are concerned that the formation and release of (products of incomplete combustion) or PIC during incineration "may pose a significant risk to the public" as stated in EPA's report "Inhalation Pathway Risk Assessment of Hazardous Waste Incineration Facilities." The scientist also warned that "the human health risk from incineration of carcinogenic heavy

metals (such as chromium, cadmium (7) and beryllium) may be significant.
The products burned may produce more toxic compounds than the parent compound and be harder to destroy.
Among more notorious toxic PIC's (products of incomplete combustion) were identified in EPA's study of 8 hazardous waste incinerators were benzene, chloroform, tetrachloroethylene and napthalene as well as formaldehyde, phosgene, dioxins and furans. And these were only a fraction of chemicals actually present in stack gases. The 90-99% of hydrocarbons which have not be identified could result in significant risk to human health. (8)
I have allergies and feel especially vulnerable to pollutants in the air.
Americans spend more than 10 billion dollars a year on medical problems caused by outdoor pollutants. (9)
The reports made public by the DOE at the hearing of Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee included health studies done in New Mexico. (10) Those included:
"A Update of Epidemiologic Studies of Plutonium Workers, 1981" showed significant elevation in deaths from benign and unspecified tumors for all workers. (11)
"Mortality Among Plutonium and Other Radiation Workers at the Plutonium Weapons Facility 1986" was done on 5,413 white males at Los Alamos

and it stated "increased risks for several types of cancer could not be ruled out". (12)
Another study, "Mortality Among Females Employed by LANL: An Epidemiologic Investigation, 1987" was done on 6,790 women employed by LANL which showed suicides were significantly higher as were ratios for ovarian and pancreatic cancers. (13)

I feel more health studies need to be done in the Los Alamos area and released to the public as soon as possible. It is urgent - our health and environment are at extreme risk!

It's hard for me to believe that "none of the potential release sites at LANL pose no public health risks under the current conditions" as stated by a LANL official at the public EPA hearing.

Health studies should include people with environmental related illnesses. These people are more sensitive and are being put in extreme jeopardy.

While estimating the budget for clean-up - the half-life of plutonium needs to be accounted for.

I feel the EPA and EID should require documentation of wastes and continuous monitoring of the clean-up should be made public. The regulations of the clean-up should include all wastes especially radioactive wastes - as suggested by Paul Robinson of Southwest Research an Information Center. (14)

Acid emissions should be monitored. Acid rain kills trees, lakes and fish. Air Pollution thins the upper ozone layer that shields us from ultraviolet rays and causes global warming.

More air quality stations should be established in the surrounding LANL area to help monitor our air. The filters at the stations should be changed at a regular basis.

More groundwater samples should be mandatory off the LANL's official boundaries.

The U.S. Geological Survey should continue their study and be included in monitoring of soils and groundwater contamination.

Off-site studies should be done to check for air groundwater & soil contamination by independent sources.

The Bandelier National Monument should be continually monitored for all of the above. The high visitation rates of this park are putting many naive visitors at a health risk.

Inspections by ED and EPA of one time a year is not adequate. I feel during the clean-up phase LANL should be monitored daily. If funds do not allow - a special government grant should be given. Citizen groups should also be involved.

The clean-up process of LANL is vital. The workers involved with the clean-up should take all precautions. The LANL, DOE, EPA and EID

should take all precautions to protect the environment and health of the people at all costs!

Incineration of any wastes is not an acceptable answer. Super Compaction should be used since it is cheaper and does not threaten our health as does incineration. Source reduction is a "must". "The Los Alamos National laboratory must shift gears from nuclear weapons research to environmental cleanup and technology transfer if it is to stay alive," Senator Jeff Bingaman stated. (15) I think we should add ...if we are to stay alive!

Thank you.

Sincerely,
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