

Moats, William P

MWL - CA

From: Thomas.Kathryn@epamail.epa.gov
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2001 8:14 AM
To: wpmoats@sandia.gov
Subject: FW: WERC study

----- Forwarded by Kathryn Thomas/R6/USEPA/US on 06/05/01 09:10 AM -----
----- Forwarded by Richard Mayer/R6/USEPA/US on 06/04/01 03:59 PM -----

Susan C
Dayton To: Richard Mayer/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
<sdayton@swcp.com> cc:
Subject: WERC study

06/04/01
12:41 PM

Hi Rich: Long time no see. Sorry I missed you. Glad you were able to meet Peter Neils of our group at the DOE Quarterly meeting. I was out of town attending my sister's wedding in S. Carolina.

Yes, the WERC study is a SHAM. WERC is getting \$3.5 million from DOE for their continued DOE-based work for the next 2 fiscal years. Of course, if you call this a slight conflict of interest you are branded as a radical. This state is incredible - but it's not surprising considering everyone's piggy banks are locked into the Lab funding. Since WERC is a "university-affiliated group" this somehow makes them exempt from any type of bias. If this study was touted as "independent" in any other state other than New Mexico it'd be a JOKE.

I'm sure Peter told you ... the \$25,000 was ORIGINALLY intended for RESAMPLING and instead Abbas Ghassemi/WERC got hold of it through Heather Wilson and somehow got the scope of work changed to "review of the old data" ... which was what Dr. Baskaran did already and recommended resampling. Of course at the time the money was appropriated we were not aware that SNL has thrown away the soil samples from MWL (good "stewardship" practices) and they've refused to spend any money to resample claiming exorbitant and unneeded costs - to the tune of \$250,000 to re-core for new samples. Heather Wilson has been no help AT ALL. All sounds a bit controlled, eh? We think so.

SNL/DOE's risk assessment of the MWL is also a mess. We have contracted Dr. Marvin Resnikoff (RAD Waste Management and Assoc/NY) to review their risk methodology and he has also found beaucoup problems with it - re: air quality issues as well. SNL's own reports show no records existed documenting the early years of dumping (1959-1975) despite their PUBLIC statements that "have very good records of what was dumped in MWL." Jerry Peace/SNL told me himself that the records of what was dumped are "sketchy." Also, their claims that no free liquids were dumped in MWL are also inaccurate - the inventory CLEARLY shows a number of various liquids were dumped - not including the 87 drums of "spent demineralizer resins."

Our position: we want the mess cleaned up when it is "safe" to do so and

are calling for "financial assurance" for clean up of the landfill at a future date, say 10 years. A long shot as it will set a "precedent" according to George Rael, DOE/AL.

So.... what can you help us with? Suggestions? Please keep communication confidential.

Sue Dayton/Citizen Action
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