



Mr. David Brugge
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Albuquerque NM 87107



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Albuquerque NM 87107-4831
2 September 2005

Rox Curry, Secretary
New Mexico Environment Department
PO Box 26110
Room N-4050
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Dear Mr Curry:

I have recently learned that the New Mexico Environment Department has rendered its decision regarding the treatment of Sandia National Laboratories' Mixed Waste Landfill, opting for a cover-up solution. This decision appears to be based on cost rather than science, an all too common tendency in our governments these days, valuing dollars over human life.

In addition, it appears that in your decision you have, contrary to regulations, failed to respond to a great deal of the testimony and written comments from the public. As one who took the time to attend the public hearings, sit waiting and listening to the testimony of others (and the sometimes devious and legalistic questioning to which some of them were subjected), and made comments myself, I feel that my own contribution, as well as that of many others, should have received consideration.

I am an anthropologist who has devoted a large part of my career to working, variously among, with and for the Navajo people over more than half a century. My eldest

son, a public health expert, has worked the Navajo former uranium miners. Between my own experience and what I have learned through my son's work, I am all too well aware of the neglect with which we treat minority peoples. It seems in the present case that Albuquerqueans, in all their diversity, are being dealt with in the same manner.

Just as the federal government ignored the threat of radiation to the future health of the uranium miners and the downwinders during the Cold War, just as it is now ignoring the threat of radioactive contamination of the water supply of thousands of Navajos in the Crownpoint/Church Rock area today, so our state government not only is skimping on replying to comments made to protect Albuquerque's water supply, but seems willing to risk contamination of our ground water, especially that which will doubtless be tapped for one of our newest residential areas immediately south of Sandia Base, in order to save a few dollars now, but with a high probability of endangering the health of a substantial portion of our population, perhaps a few years, perhaps twenty or fifty years from now.

It strikes me as rather like the kind of planning New Orleans apparently did for a hurricane disaster after its close call last year.

Sincerely

David M Brugge

cc: Gov. Bill Richardson, Santa Fe
Mayor Martin Chavez, Albuquerque
Dr. Doug Bruggs, Tufts School of Medicine
Pres. Joe Shirley, The Navajo Nation
Sue Dapton, Citizen Action New Mexico