

From: Willard Hunter [<mailto:willardhunter@comcast.net>]
Sent: Monday, November 05, 2012 2:58 PM
To: Moats, William, NMENV
Subject: mixed waste landfill

Mr. Moats, it is critical there be a public hearing permitting presentation of evidence, cross examination and a court reporter should be held about the Long-Term Monitoring and Maintenance Plan for the Mixed Waste Landfill (MWL) dump. It is unconscionable that the NMED plans to allow Sandia Labs to leave hundreds of thousands of cubic feet of dangerous wastes in place at the Mixed Waste Landfill (MWL) in unlined pits and trenches above Albuquerque's drinking water aquifer. Covering up the waste is certainly the cheapest alternative for SNL and Lockheed Martin. It is also a disaster waiting to happen – and it will.

Attached are my comments from the October 16, 2012 meeting at Cesar Chavez community center.

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Sandia Mixed Waste Dump Meeting October 16, 2012

First, I want to ask a clarifying question and begin with a couple definitions.

hazardous waste landfill:

Definition: A specially permitted, excavated or engineered area in which hazardous waste is deposited and covered. Proper protection of the environment from the materials to be deposited in such a landfill requires careful site selection, the cataloging of types of wastes, good design (including a liner and a leachate collection and treatment system), proper operation, and thorough final closure.

[http://ofmpub.epa.gov/sor_internet/registry/termreg/searchandretrieve/glossariesandkey
wordlists/search.do](http://ofmpub.epa.gov/sor_internet/registry/termreg/searchandretrieve/glossariesandkeywordlists/search.do)

dump: A land site where wastes are discarded in a disorderly or haphazard fashion without regard to protecting the environment. Uncontrolled dumping is an indiscriminate and illegal form of waste disposal. Problems associated with dumps include multiplication of disease-carrying organisms and pests, fires, air and water pollution, unsightliness, loss of habitat, and personal injury.

[http://nlquery.epa.gov/epasearch/epasearch?result_template=epafiles_default.xml&actio
n=filtersearch&filter=&typeofsearch=epa&querytext=dump&submit=Go](http://nlquery.epa.gov/epasearch/epasearch?result_template=epafiles_default.xml&action=filtersearch&filter=&typeofsearch=epa&querytext=dump&submit=Go)

The Question: Based on these definitions is the Sandia Mixed Waste site more like a landfill or a dump?

The big environmental news in Albuquerque, of course, relates to the KAFB aviation gas and jet fuel 40 year gusher. It is contaminating our aquifers and threatens the long term viability of our city's water supply. It is a threat to the security of our city.

The pressure isn't off Sandia NL, the NMED, US Energy Dept, and the EPA, however. There is a massive dump of mixed waste – radioactive and chemicals – that also threatens our community.

It has been clearly demonstrated in the past several years that these groups have figuratively and literally covered up this pollution that also threatens our community. Several things have been established:

- the monitoring wells are in the wrong location, of the wrong type, and are essentially useless for monitoring contamination from the dump site.

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- The modeling showing the lack of contamination is a “black box” and cannot be verified
- SNL and the NMED illegally proceeded to cover up the dump site without approval or authorization
- The EPA was pressured by the NMED to not investigate its actions or those of SNL. EPA Region 6 management changed a report to conform to NMED findings.
- The dump is a mile away from a children’s park and residential homes planned for 100,000 people at Mesa del Sol.
- The five-year review ordered by the New Mexico Environment Department’s May 26, 2005 Final Order (Secretary Curry), issued under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), has not been performed by Sandia National Laboratories for the MWL. The five-year review is more than 2 years overdue. NMED and SNL are trying to weasel their way out of this review deadline.

Given the grievous display of reckless treatment for Sandia’s mixed waste dump, I am asking for a public hearing when people can present evidence about the Long-Term monitoring and Maintenance Plan for the mixed waste dump. At some point in the future when children, women, and men begin to die from this uncontrolled contamination, we may look back at the past 12 years and determine that Sandia people – and those in government agencies - responsible for this cover-up are guilty of homicide – and should be in prison.

Rather than enhancing the national security of this country, SNL has endangered it – as are all those complicit in this cover-up.

And, sadly, this cover-up is all about money. The Energy Department, SNL, and ATT (now Lockheed-Martin) have been willing to endanger the lives of people in Albuquerque by putting the toxic waste in the ground. Now they are unwilling to clean-up their waste – and are endangering the lives of the Albuquerque citizenry.

We need the public hearing.

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