



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

# NEW MEXICO MILITARY INSTITUTE

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Greg

13 April 2001

RECEIVED

APR 16 2001

Mr. Peter Maggiore, Department Secretary  
New Mexico State Environment Department  
Post Office Box 26110  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Dear Mr. Maggiore,

I am writing to note that while NMMI has no objection to the proposed location of a hazardous waste dump on a site east of Roswell, I do want to express my deepest concerns about increased truck traffic at the corner of Main (US 285) and College Boulevard. At present, no bypass east of Roswell exists that permits trucks to avoid travel on US 285. The route requires trucks to turn at College and Main (US 285). New Mexico Military Institute, a boarding school of young adults ages 13-22 years, has been located at the present site (College and Main) since 1895 and is home to a Corps of Cadets nearly 1,000 strong and approximately 300 faculty and staff. Absent a bypass to the east of Roswell, transportation of the material designated for the proposed site will regularly pass directly adjacent to the campus and may create an unacceptable safety risk.

I previously wrote Roswell's Mayor Bill Owen expressing my concern with the existing truck route (letter attached) and the potential for disaster should an accident occur near NMMI. Add to that traffic a hazardous waste component and the risk increases dramatically to the cadets and staff/faculty.

Mr. Peter Maggiore  
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13 April 2001

The WIPP bypass was designed to provide the safeguards necessary to avoid transport of hazardous waste material from going through Roswell. Absent a bypass on the east side, the increased traffic will magnify the potential for accidents at the already heavily traveled College and Main location.

The safety and security of Roswell's citizenry and the Corps of Cadets should be central to your deliberations. I strongly encourage your favorable consideration of construction of a bypass around the entire city or designation of an alternate truck route for the delivery of the proposed hazardous waste.

Sincerely,



ROBERT D. BECKEL  
Lieutenant General, USAF (Ret)  
Superintendent, NMMI

RDB/na  
Attachments: (2)✓

# Waste Landfill Planned

MARCH 17, 2001

■ Site east of Roswell would be the first commercial hazardous waste disposal area in the state

BY RENE ROMO  
*Journal Southern Bureau*

A Roswell-based firm is poised to obtain a state Environment Department permit to develop the state's first commercial hazardous-waste disposal site.

The firm, Gandy Marley Inc., is proposing to build the Triassic Park hazardous waste landfill at a 480-acre site about 43 miles east of Roswell and 36 miles west of Tatum.

Besides being located in an isolated spot far from any densely populated cities, the site is considered ideal because underneath it lies more than 600 feet of Triassic-era mudstones, said Gandy Marley president Dale Gandy.

The thick layer of mudstones forms a natural barrier to any potential leaching of contaminants from the landfill to deep ground water, according to the state's Hazardous Waste Bureau.

"The precipitation rate through the clay is absolutely nil," Gandy said. "We feel it's the safest site that there could be for this. It's environmentally correct."

For this project, the state Environment Department has waived its normal requirement that a ground water monitoring system be installed. The reason is that calculations estimate it would take more than 800 years for waste to reach the top of the aquifer if there were migration of hazardous waste.

However, the firm of Gandy Marley will monitor any migration of waste if it enters the mudstone on the way to the deep aquifer.

Roswell City Manager John Capps said the city pumps its water from a different aquifer than that upon which the hazardous-waste landfill would sit. Contamination of ground water is not a concern,

The Environment Department is seeking public comment on a draft permit for the landfill through May 15.

Until May 15, concerned parties may also ask the Environment Department to conduct a hearing, and if department Secretary Peter Maggiore approves, the public may question state and company officials.

There are numerous landfills for regular household trash, but hazardous waste, subject to federal regulations, has usually been shipped out of state for disposal. The exception is defense-related radioactive waste disposed of at the U.S. Department of Energy's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad.

The Triassic Park landfill is expected to receive hazardous waste for up to 30 years, according to Gandy.

Wastes would include commercial chemicals such as waste solvents, some waste-water treatment sludges, gas-pipeline residues and petroleum-refining wastes from the oil patch country in the state's southeast corner.

The state has required Gandy Marley to commit to various environmental safeguards including double lining of all disposal cells with an impermeable synthetic membrane to minimize the potential for waste releases.

# Hazardous-Waste Dump Planned East of Roswell

SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2001

BY RENE ROMO  
*Journal Southern Bureau*

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## Hazardous-Waste Dump Planned East of Roswell

from **PAGE A1**

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The state has required Gandy Marley to commit to various environmental safeguards including double lining of all disposal cells with an impermeable synthetic membrane to minimize the potential for waste releases.

Gandy said he has been working on the project for 10 years. Gandy Marley Inc. first applied for a state landfill permit in 1994. The state issued a draft permit in early 1996, but based on public comments rescinded the draft permit in July 1997. Since then, Gandy Marley renewed its application and the state, with the aid of an engineering consultant, has been reviewing the proposal and seeking modification.

The project is the venture of Gandy, whose company Gandy Corp. provides a variety of oil field services, and Bill Marley, whose family runs a ranch of more than 20,000 acres. The landfill will be on a portion of the ranch land.

Gandy said that, if approved, it would take three years for financing and construction before the landfill is ready to receive hazardous wastes.