

**Jimi S. Gadzia
2508 Cortez Court
Roswell, New Mexico 88201**

May 10, 2001

Mr. James Bearzi, Bureau Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502



Dear Mr. Bearzi

I am writing to respectfully request that Gandy Marley Inc, or the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) conduct additional public meetings for the Triassic Park Hazardous Waste Facility. This is a massive facility that could have the potential to significantly impact Roswell and surrounding areas. The attendance of over 100 people at the public meeting on Friday evening, May 4th, 2001, is a good indicator of public interest and concern.

As you are well aware, the meeting, (scheduled to last until 8:30pm), in fact lasted until almost 11:00pm. I talked to many people the following day who found themselves standing in the outer hallway, unable to participate, unable to see the slides or hear the proceedings, and left in frustration. Though it is always difficult to predict, the size of this room was very inadequate for the number of participants that attended. Many others told me that they couldn't attend because of previous Friday night commitments. Friday evening wouldn't seem too conducive for attendance by the public, and I was very surprised by this scheduling.

I heard comments that Friday night was selected simply to reduce attendance. As always, rumors abound, which I feel are not productive, and harmful to the whole process. Though rumors are probably inevitable, the opportunity to attend additional public meetings where facts are discussed in an informal manner could do nothing but reduce this inevitability, and aid the process.

Quite a few citizens left before being able to speak due to the behavior of Representative Dan Foley. However, everyone else conducted themselves in a respectable manner, and followed the guidelines set forth by the Department at the onset of the meeting. Though giving elected officials air time is done out of respect, the Department should limit these political opportunities. Being one of the last to speak at the meeting, I couldn't help but recognize that everyone was extremely tired, including myself, and I'm somewhat practiced at these types of meetings. As a result, I limited my questions to a few, and still have many more questions that I would like the opportunity to ask of Gandy Marley, Inc.

This provides me with a unique experience, to learn first hand how easy or difficult it actually is to participate in the public process. I have received unsolicited feedback that the area office has been extremely helpful to members of the public in attaining requested information, and I look forward to visiting with them. Other feedback that I've heard is that citizens of Tatum also requested a public meeting, and were flatly turned down.