

City of Roswell

P.O. Box 1838

Roswell, New Mexico USA 88202-1838

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May 18, 2001



Steve Pullen
Project Manager
Hazardous Waste Bureau
NM Environmental Department
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502-6110

Dear Steve:

You will find enclosed copies of the letters you requested in reference to concerns expressed by some of our citizens. The only one I or the mayor has responded to is the one from the Chianta's.

I hope the meeting went well in Tatum. I wish you well. If I can be of further assistance, feel free to call.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Larry A. Loy'.

Larry Loy
Special Services Administrator

enc: 2



3207 Chiquita Lane
Roswell, NM 88201
May 2, 2001

Mayor Bill B. Owen
P.O. Drawer 1838
Roswell, NM 88202-1838

Dear Mayor Owen:

Sue B. Owen

We are writing to express our serious concern about the Triassic Park Hazardous Waste Disposal Facility proposed for a location east of Roswell.

We only recently learned of this project by way of friends in a local conservation group and need more time to learn about and understand the risks and safeguards involved. What kinds of hazardous materials will be stored there? What are the risks to wildlife and local ecosystems?

Most importantly, as a registered nurse working in the community, I, Sue, am concerned about the health risks to the adults and children who live in the area, grow food on the land, breathe the air and drink the water. We already have a national radioactive waste disposal site near Carlsbad. Why must New Mexico host another toxic waste facility?

There needs to be more time for people in this community to study these and other questions. We need to hear from the planners, developers and our government representatives. The people of Roswell, Lovington and Hobbs deserve full disclosure. Please give us the facts.

We feel a 90-day extension on the public comment period is a minimal requirement to fully inform New Mexicans, and to allow our voices to be heard. We urge you to support this dialogue.

Sincerely,

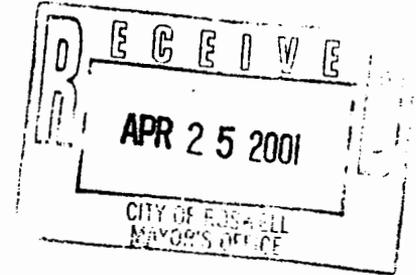
Joseph and Sue Chianta

Karen Jo Herman
PO Box 3566
Roswell, New Mexico 88202-3566
505 622-6190
kjherman@rt66.com

F Y F

April 24, 2001

Sec. Peter Maggiore, Secretary of Environment,
1190 St. Francis Drive
P O Box 26110
Santa Fe NM 87505



Re: Triassic Park Hazardous Waste Disposal Facility

Dear Mr. Maggiore:

Same as earlier

I am writing asking for an extension of 90 days on the Public Comment Period regarding the application of the Triassic Park Hazardous Waste Disposal Facility. I am not the least bit comfortable with the information provided to date nor with the plans themselves. The actual location is not completely clear, the geology appears questionable public descriptions of substances to be stored give a false impression on just how hazardous the actual substance in the application are, the lack of media coverage, and the lack of availability to review the application all give rise to a lack of confidence in both the operators and the project itself.

I am fortunate to work with Geologists and know additional Geologists who I can ask questions of. I was at the public hearing that was held in Roswell on this matter. I was uncomfortable with how that meeting was handled. The geology did not match up with what the Geologist, whose lively hood depends on their knowledge of geology in this area, told me. Yes, it was agreed that the clay formation has very low permeability, but it is on a 1% decline to the West, which means it is lower by one foot for each mile to the West. Any of us who have ever spilled any liquid (including pudding consistency) knows that the substance will spread out, add even a slight decline and it is on its way. At that meeting, and I understand in their application, it is claimed that the clay formation would completely stop any potential spillage from entering an aquifer or surface water. I truly believe that this is inaccurate, that even though the clay will not readily permit any liquid to travel through it (barring any fractures) it will, with the aid of the westerly slope, guide spillage towards two surface waters that I know of not far from the facility site.

Another item of the application that I am very uncomfortable with is that it is designed to handle a "25 year rain" which I believe is a six-inch rain within twenty-four hours. I feel that this is far from being sufficient. It is estimated that this facility will be open 20-25 years and more, which alone warrants that caution be taken to design into it at least a 50-year rain. At the meeting the presenters claim that a 6 inch rain is highly unlikely. Priorities should not be what is "highly unlikely", but the safety and concerns of the neighbors along with anyone who rely on the Ogallala aquifer, the ground waters in the area, as well as nearby surface use. Other nearby sites of consideration include Waldrop Park, the highway wayside, and a BLM designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern one mile to the southeast. I personally have been in a 12 inch in one hour rain in Roswell. Anybody wishing to laugh off the unlikeliness of heavy rains should talk with Steve Patterson at Bottomless State Park, who experience one of those "highly unlikely" rains that washed a culvert out and closed a road. We are currently in a drought cycle. In a few years when the cycle changes back into a raining season cycle the "highly unlikely" become much more likely. Therefore, preparing the facility for a 50-year rain would not be sufficient. In addition, there should be strict monthly monitoring of surface waters, water wells, and air emissions, done by parties/organization not associated with the facility, neutral, qualified party(s). This of course would eliminate the NM Dept of Environment because it appears that they have shown a great deal of interest and commitment to this project.