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Roswell, New Mexico 88201  
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New Mexico Environment Department

Re: Hazard Waste Site (Mescalero Sands)

I attended an informational meeting and am requesting a "public hearing" for at least five reasons: (tentatively scheduled for Oct. 15, at the Civic center , I understand)

1. State Senator Tim Jennings expressed the sentiment that a toxic waste site for N.M. toxic waste was more acceptable than for somebody else's hazardous waste. The GMI representative was patently evasive about his potential customers. We don't want New Jersey to solve their terrible problems by moving them to New Mexico. (With profit to Mr M and G, and not to New Mexico)

2. The site proposes needing 30,000 to 50,000 gallons of water per day (365 d/year). The permit should not be granted until the water supply can be proven to be available for the duration. (Last night they said they didn't have a water source.) Water is becoming a precious resource (and expensive), and we should be shown that that water couldn't be used for a better purpose for the state of New Mexico. (e.g. Watering golf courses to bring in more tourism-- a good source of revenue for the state: or manufacturing that would provide more jobs than this project)

3. Truck traffic on Route 380 would be expected to increase by 100 trips per day ( 5/hour x 10 hour/day x in and out), plus perhaps 10 water truck trips per day. It is proposed that there will be construction on that road and this will increase congestion and possibly the number of accidents, and wear and tear on the highway. Perhaps better when that is a 4 lane highway.

4. I've practiced medicine for 40 years and I don't feel medical knowledge is that infallible. (Radium was hand painted on watch dials until cancers developed--Radiation of the thymus gland was recommended until thirty years later when it was documented that there was an increase in thyroid cancer.) NOBODY in medicine knows all the things that can cause cancer, or birth defects or Alzheimers (Aluminum has been suspected) or ADHD (increasing incidence and we don't know why) If you don't have to take a risk--Why should you?

5. Some weight should be given to the wishes of the residents of the county. There was ~~SRO~~ at the meeting last night, and the pervasive tone of everybody's question (except Mr. Marley) was against the hazard waste site. We need an official public meeting to determine public sentiment. If we don't want it ---it shouldn't be forced on us. (This is a government OF the people, BY the people, FOR the people !)

Sincerely yours,

  
Don R. Clark, M.D.