

A-80-40  
IV-D-49

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Burton, WA. 98013

Mr. William Ruckleshaus  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M. St. S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Ruckleshaus:

I am responding to your statement that you wished to have public response on the emission standards presently set by the E.P.A. for the ASARCO copper smelter in Tacoma, WA. I am a resident of Vashon Is., living just a mile and a half north from the smelter. My family and I feel strongly that ASARCO should not be allowed to continue operating under the current conditions. While the secondary hoods required for the converter furnaces would reduce fugitive emissions, they will increase the stack emissions and the fallout of arsenic on Vashon Is. We have already been told by Tacoma/ Pierce County Health Dept. not to grow and eat lettuce, beet greens, chard and other vegetables. The urine tests that have been done on Vashon school children lead us to many questions and the fear of possible long term harm. I am asking you to please consider the impact of 162.8 tons of arsenic per year falling on the people, animals, sea life and plants living in this area. I also ask that hair and urine tests be made available at low cost to all Vashon islanders who want them. I would appreciate your response.

Sincerely,

Elaine Taylor

