



5124 N. Bennett

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Olympia, Washington 98504

August 30, 1990

Karen Pickett
5120 North Shirley
Ruston, Washington 98407

Dear Ms. Pickett,

As you requested, I am sending reprints of some of my Ruston arsenic studies.

I believe that there is no current health risk to Ruston residents from residual soil arsenic. The best measure of human exposure is urinary arsenic, and these levels in Ruston are now very close to levels seen in non-exposed areas. This is an excellent indicator that environmental arsenic exposure in Ruston is minimal.

The health end point of arsenic exposure via ingestion referred to by EPA is skin cancer, a very treatable condition. Skin cancer has never been reported in excess in men heavily exposed to arsenic. Arsenical dermatitis and nasal septal perforations were seen in ASARCO workers, without a skin cancer excess. I never saw any suspicious rashes in Ruston children during the years I studied them.

I will be happy to discuss the issue with EPA representatives at anytime. My phone number is 206-753-6408.

Sincerely,

Samuel Milham, Jr., M.D., M.P.H.
Department of Health
Chronic Disease Epidemiology EY-12
Olympia, Washington 98504

Enclosure
SM:sc

To: Ruston Council and Mayor
From: Karen Pickett
Re: Suggested letters concerning residential clean up plan

Dear Dr. Milham, (note letter on back)

I wanted to invite you to give your input at one of the EPA workshops listed in the enclosed fact sheet. Your conversations and letter have been very encouraging to me. Although EPA discounts your comments, many of us who question EPA's conclusions are encouraged by them.

If you can attend either of the meetings, please let me know. It would be a privilege to meet you. Thank you for your help and concern for our community.

Dear Chuck, (Mr. Nordhof, Senator Gordon's Office)

Because of your past interest, I wanted to be sure you were aware of the EPA's meeting's to hear public comment on their residential clean-up plans. The details are on the enclosed fact sheet. I expect our residents to provide interesting input at these meetings I hope you will be able to attend, especially the meeting at the Ruston school.

I also wanted to check on the survey you were considering doing of our town. As EPA now makes it's final plans, it would be helpful to know how most of the community views this issue. I don't believe a survey such as this has ever been done here. Having the survey come form an unbiased office such as yours may solicit more of a response than one from Ruston or EPA.

Thank you for your interest in our community. I believe your concern has been helpful in our relationship with EPA.

Dear Congressman Dicks,

Because of your past interest, I wanted to be sure you were aware of EPA's meeting's to hear public comment on their residential clean-up plans. The details are on the enclosed fact sheet. I expect our residents to provide interesting input at these meetings. I hope you or some member of your staff will be able to attend, especially the meeting at the Ruston school.

Thank you for your interest in our community. I believe your concern on these issues has been helpful in our relationship with EPA.

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