

TACOMA - NOVEMBER 16, 1972

Our knowledge based on all available scientific information is that levels of arsenic in urine reported in Dr. Lane's letter to Mr. Dammkoehler are of no threat to children or adults.

What did not come out in the paper and Television was that stated Dr. Lane also that the limit for arsenic in air established in Czechoslovakia and Russia is 3 micrograms per cubic meter. Mr. Dammkoehler reported to Dr. Lane stating that, "The Department of Ecology has analyzed 19 high volume samples taken during the past three years. All values for arsenic over 1.0 micrograms per cubic meter were measured at our 26th and Pearl Station which is 1.9 miles from the smelter. The highest of these values was 1.89 ug/m³."

Asarco at Tacoma has been taking air samples at the City Water Reservoir located at North 31st and Shirley every two weeks for over a period of 4-1/2 years. The average arsenic in the air was .43 microgram per cubic meter. In other words, what we are saying is that the State Department of Ecology's 19 samples are 1/2 as high as the extreme limits put on by Czechoslovakia and Russia, and Asarco's samples, which is over 100 samples, show less than 1/6 of the Czechoslovakian and Russian samples.