



TOWN OF RUSTON

5117 NO. WINNIFRED

RUSTON, WASHINGTON 98407

PHONE (206) 759-3544

November 20, 1975

Senator C. W. "Red" Beck
2400 Beach Drive
Port Orchard, Wash. 98366

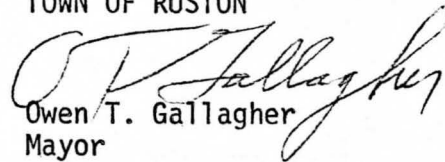
Dear Senator Beck:

We wish to acknowledge your fine article in The Peninsula Gateway of November 19th, your "Viewpoint".

In using the word "we" I am speaking for the Town Council and the people of Ruston who, I feel, are unanimously in agreement with your Article.

Sincerely,

TOWN OF RUSTON


Owen T. Gallagher
Mayor

1975

2nd District

Sen. R. Ted Bottiger

Rep. Wayne Ehlers

Rep. Phyllis K. Erickson

25th District

Sen. Rueben A. Knoblauch

Rep. Len Sawyer

Rep. Mark Gaspard

26th District

Sen. C.W. "Red" Beck

Rep. John Hawkins

Rep. Ron Hannah

27th District

Sen. Jules Stortini

Rep. Lorraine Wojohn

Rep. A. A. Adams

28th District

Sen. Chas. Newschwander

Rep. Helmut Juding

Rep. Ted Haley

29th District

Sen. "Slim" Rasmussen

Rep. P. J. "Jim" Gallagher

Rep. Mike Parker

August 15, 1975

TO THE EDITOR

FROM THE CLERK-TREASURER OF THE TOWN OF RUSTON

On Wednesday, August 13th, a bunch of pamphlets were left on my desk for distribution to the citizens of this Town.

The pamphlets were from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department --
"Information Pamphlet No.2 - Publishing Date: August 1, 1975" -
Entitled Cadmium and Arsenic.

The pamphlet starts "Recent attention has been placed on the risk of growing vegetables in the area of the Tacoma Smelter (Asarco). The possible risk to health from eating vegetables that might be contaminated with excessive amounts of cadmium and arsenic has been emphasized." *all cap.*

I thought it interesting to give the reactions of people seeing this pamphlet.

- 1st. No one showed any concern of eating this vegetation.
- 2nd. Some laughed about it.
- 3rd. Some were angry that the taxpayers' money was spent for such a pamphlet.

LORETTA PRETTYMAN
Clerk

4009 North 34th

Ruston People Concerned

Statement made by Owen T. Gallagher, a concerned citizen of the Town of Ruston, at the Council Meeting of Monday, May 19, 1975.

Council Members, Citizens and Friends:

Since the requested variance of Asarco was denied by PSAPCA (Puget Sound Air Pollution Control Agency) last Thursday, a number of people have approached me relative to the future of the Smelter.

We all know that the Smelter and our Town are compatible; as the smelter goes, or does not go, so goes the Town.

Our citizens have shown no concern, whatsoever, to me, relative to the alleged effects of Smelter emissions on their health, either by air or by soil. However, many of them are now showing concern as to the means of their livelihood.

I feel obligated to tell you what I know about the situation.

What about the future of the smelter? There are several avenues of option which can be taken. I can only tell you, at this time, that no decision has been made.

For the past several years, there have been many haphazard statistics offered to the public relative to the possible health hazards of the smelter environment. There also has been many erroneous and irresponsible statements made and a great deal of emotionalism shown rather than of actual facts.

As Personnel Director of the Tacoma Plant of Asarco, I participate in public and labor relations. Also, I am in charge of Safety, Welfare and Employment. Among the many records kept by my office, I am custodian of the payroll individuals employment records.

As an example of misinformation, I quote from the Seattle P.I. publication of Friday, May 16th, regarding the denial of the variance, in an article covering the meeting:

"Another physician, Dr. J. Gale Katterhagen, who is on the staff of Tacoma General Hospital, testified that small quantities of arsenic trioxide could cause lung cancer, lymphatic cancer and skin cancer. He also said that within the past 90 days two of his patients, both smelter employees, had been diagnosed as having had lung cancer and died a short time later."

He simply mis-spoke. There has not been a death this year caused by cancer of any type; either on the payroll, salary roll, or pension roll. Wouldn't you expect the public to believe Dr. Katterhagen's statement, coming from a Doctor no less?

To be factual, at this time, the Plant Medical Department is expecting the death, caused by lung cancer, of an employee whose case has been diagnosed as such. He lived at south and now east Tacoma. He is not employed in the smelting division of the plant but rather in the refinery, where there is no dust. However, he is a "chain" cigarette smoker.

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The last lung cancer death of a smelter employee occurred July 1974, to a carpenter, who was also a "chain smoker".

Doctor Katterhagen will have a chance to correct himself at the forthcoming meeting, on the smelter subject, scheduled for Wednesday afternoon and evening, May 21st, at the University of Puget Sound. However, the damage has already been done.

Now I will give you some more facts on this subject which will dispute some of the things you have heard:

The Pierce County lung cancer death rate is the 5th lowest in the 6 most populous State of Washington Counties. It is below the average of all counties in the State. This information, for the last compiled records, 1973, was received from the State Division of vital statistics and can be documented by same.

There is considerably more cadmium in the commercial fertilizer you add to your garden than is found in the Ruston soil. Seven different brands were assayed at our plant laboratory and the Company's Department of Environmental Sciences at Salt Lake City, Utah. Who knows whether this is good, bad, or indifferent? How much is too much? This is true of the other metal elements also. A few years ago, I can remember when the poorer health of some people was attributed to mineral deficiencies. Now it seems that some "so-called" experts say any amount is too much.

Asarco has reduced arsenic emissions 50% in the last two years and is meeting all ambient SO₂ standards. The plant is surrounded by air monitors.

The plant has spent \$23,000,000 on pollution control in the last five years.

OWEN T. GALLAGHER
5228 North Winnifred
Tacoma (Ruston) Wash. 98407

ASARCO Incorporated
TACOMA PLANT

RESULTS OF HIGH VOLUME SAMPLING
ARSENIC (Micrograms per cubic meter)
TWENTY-FOUR-HOUR SAMPLES

PSAPCA, GCA & McClannon sampling period: January '73 thru August '74
Asarco previous study sampling period: November '72 - January '73
Asarco 1975 sampling period: April 24 thru May 9, 1975

ALL SAMPLE AVERAGES

<u>Station</u>	<u>PSAPCA, Etc.</u>	<u>ASARCO 1975</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Stack	2.187 (26 Samples*)	0.467 (15 Samples)	-79%
Holy Cross School	1.279 (21 Samples*)	0.211 (14 Samples)	-84%
<u>Station</u>	<u>ASARCO Previous</u>	<u>ASARCO 1975</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Parking Lot	2.470 (37 Samples)	0.466 (15 Samples)	-81%
Killenbeck	0.7188(51 Samples)	0.387 (15 Samples)	-46%

WITH WIND TOWARD RECEPTORS 80% to 100% OF SAMPLE PERIOD

<u>Station</u>	<u>PSAPCA, Etc.</u>	<u>ASARCO 1975</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Stack	2.742 (12 Samples*)	1.327 (4 Samples)	-52%
Holy Cross School	1.813 (11 Samples*)	0.532 (4 Samples)	-71%
<u>Station</u>	<u>ASARCO Previous</u>	<u>ASARCO 1975</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Parking Lot	2.740 (6 Samples)	1.345 (4 Samples)	-51%
Killenbeck	1.219 (7 Samples)	1.017 (4 Samples)	-17%

*3 Samples (PSAPCA) during periods of high wind speeds were omitted.
Omitted data at the stack station were the 3 highest concentrations.
Omitted data at Holy Cross School included 2 of the highest concentrations

5/14/75