

July 27, 1983

Mr. Ruckelshaus,

I have lived in Jacoma for most of my life and recently purchased a home approximately three miles from the ASARCO smelter. You are seeking public input for arsenic emission standards - this is mine.

I think EPA's obligation is to protect public health - strict health standards must be set. Risk must be low - best available technology is not good enough. Lung cancer deaths from arsenic are only part of the story. Attention has not been given to other harmful health effects caused by arsenic - these must also be addressed.

I realize that jobs may be in question but after much thought I will push for lower risks. My reasons are many but include the following: 1) ASARCO has chosen to use high arsenic ore - they don't have to - that decision imperils the public. 2) ASARCO has constantly fought any attempts to regulate its emissions - at public health's expense - not theirs. 3) As a responsible part of the community they should have reinvested portions of profit

to update the smelter and protect both workers and public - not to mention the environment. 4) ASARCO's Tacoma plant is not the only ^{arsenic} smelter that has run into pollution problems - their Armadillo, Texas zinc plant has a similar history. 5) On a more personal level - I could not plant a garden in my yard - the Tacoma Health Dept. warned against it. 6) On windier days I cannot jog without getting a chemical taste in my mouth. 7) Perhaps most importantly, I realize that my health, as well as my friends' and families', is put on the line. The smelter affects me personally in a negative way. The arsenic falls on my yard, my car, my skin, and is ingested into my body through breathing - whether I want it to or not.

Therefore I strongly urge you to set strict health standards - designed to protect public and environmental health - with a reasonable margin of safety. Please give private citizens a break, not the profit-seeking corporations.

Thank you,

Shaun Rue

2612 No. Union

Tacoma, WA 98407