

A-80-40

IV-D-41

Rebecca L. Graves
Rt. 2 Box 128C
Burton, Wa. 98013

William Ruckelshaus
Director of EPA
401 M Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20406

Dear Sir:

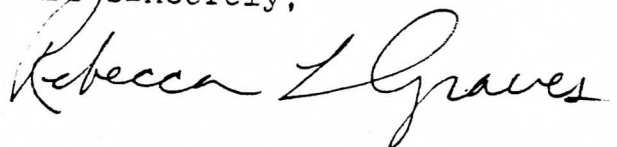
This letter is to register my extreme concern over the arsenic emissions from ASARCO. I have been a resident of the south end of Vashon Island for the past two years; we are building our home/farm/life here. We bought five acres with the intention of moving in the direction of self-sufficiency as far as possible. Gardening is a large part of that picture. Now we are told not to eat certain items from our garden (the very items that are best from a garden, i.e. green leafy vegetables). We are dismayed, to say the least.

I have just finished reading my EPA news release of July 12 regarding this issue. The hoods are not enough. Minimally, I want you to require ASARCO to use the low arsenic feed ore. If this causes them to decide to shut down the plant, so be it. The EPA was created to protect people and the environment, not jobs. It is totally unacceptable to go on allowing this dangerous buildup of poisons in our community. Recently, a friend and neighbor in medical school said that in his opinion (from his observations and experiences so far with medicine), heavy metals pose at least as great a threat to us as nuclear radiation and fallout.

What is really needed is appropriate research. The meaningless statistics and projections in the news release are useless. The EPA should fund the proposed PSAPCA program of free lab tests for arsenic, and cadmium in urine, hair, garden soil, and vegetables. Kidney damage, one of the main effects of arsenic, was not even mentioned in the "health effects" section of the news release. In addition, the problem of the sulphur dioxide being emitted from ASARCO and causing acid rain in the area, was not even mentioned in the release.

Well, I won't go on, as I think you have the gist of my sentiments. You should know, however, that feelings over here are running high, and the affected citizens of Vashon-Maury are determined to effect a satisfactory (to us) resolution of this problem. We are strongly hoping that you will do your job and enforce the law (the Clean Air Act), but we are prepared with a back up plan in case you disappoint us. We don't have fat, well-paid lobbyists working for us, as I'm sure ASARCO does, but we feel we're on the right side of the moral and ethical questions involved here. Please join us.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca L. Graves