

File KAFB
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ENTERED

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July 12, 1991

Mr. Swanton

Thank you for your letter dated June 24, 1991. As you stated the pollution problem at Elephant Butte Lake would be solved except for one item. The contractor, Pro Shop, will not follow the policies.

On July 9, 1991 a C.L. Gibson [P.O. Box 43, T or C, New Mexico 87901] reports to us that Pro Shop took pryos from their boat to the conex and busted them up on the ground in front of the conex. The boat was parked on a designated park road, not in the water. Mr. Gibson said: "They don't care what they pollute anymore, right in our campsite. I come here twice a year and I have to put up with this."

Mr. Gibson said that as they busted up the pryos, phosphorous ignited, and spewed out on the ground. What I want to know is what danger does this place on the people of New Mexico who use this campsite? I would like to see an impact study. As people walk around in this area, possibly bare footed, are they at risk? What about the children who might play in this dirt because there is no fence to prohibit access to this area? Is there any risk to cancer from exposure to phosphorus to the people who use the campsite or who live close to the conex?

You sent me a policy statement, from the USAF, stating that the conex would be dumped every eighty days. I looked at old records and on an average about two hundreds pryos were being deployed in an eighty day period. This is a very large amount of hazardous material for a temporary storage site. Is it acceptable to store so much at one time or should a shorter period be used like thirty days?

In our last phone conversation, I understood you to tell me that if Pro Shop kept hauling pryos you would take some corrective action. You also compared the way we handled pryos to how Pro Shop is doing it today. When I was the contractor, I handled them in the manner that the Air Force instructed me to. During this same period of time, a Mr. Tolstedt (Pro Shop) was employed by me and I was

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instructed by the Air Force to remove him from the boats, because he would not follow their policies. If today, Pro Shop were following the Air Force policies, you would not have me in your office. This is not one contractor trying to close another, but one person who can see that this contractor is not, will not and has a long history of never following the established policies for the safe handling of hazardous waste. The Air Force can not supervise this contractor. They had prior knowledge that this contractor was grossly mishandling pryos and yet awarded him the contract. Their reasoning was that he needed to be better trained. He has been retrained, and as of July 9, he still does it his way.

I was never afraid of the WIPP in New Mexico until I found out that the government can do as they wish and no state agency will act to insure compliance. The Air Force has acted very responsibly to write policies, but they have not implemented them. The contractor keeps hauling pryos, and now he busts them up.

This is about the tenth time we have found him to be mis~~h~~ hauling pryos in the last six months. He mishandled pryos when he worked for us. HOW MUCH LONGER CAN THIS PRIVATE HAULER OF HAZARDOUS WASTE GO ON MISHANDLING HAZARDOUS WASTE IN OUR STATE? He is polluting our waters, and shores.

Please take action to insure that this contractor does not mishandle pryos anymore and that he cleans up any phosphorus he got on the ground when he busted them up on the ground. Also evaluate if the eighty day rule allows for proper storage of hazardous waste in a temporary storage site.

Thank You



Ron Bratton.

*This issue under active
discussion - I called &
spoke w/ Efran Mechano
7/22/91. KAFB planning to
dispense w/ live flares in
favor of dummy flares.
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1/26/91*