

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

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2

Bharat Mathur
EPA
Regional Administrator

Dear Sir,

I attended the E.P.A. meeting with the County Board in DeWitt County in April. The meeting was very effective. Going in we were concerned about our welfare - leaving most were pretty well resigned to their fate. The gentlemen from E.P.A. (Rafel Gonzalez, Steve Johnson and another gentleman) very carefully indicated they were going to OK dumping toxic waste on top of two aquifers in our county but would finish the approval process first. Additionally they thought two plastic sheets and some soil of unknown consistency was adequate protection. They also pointed out how their testing scheme totally depended on honest cooperation from the Coulters - the folks from another county reaping massive profits from this debacle. They also explained that even this fatally flawed testing would only "protect" the lower aquifer and that there was no testing or protection for those drawing water from the upper aquifer. By this time I was furious.

During the brief time when they entertained questions from the victims (us) I asked if, since their testing scheme obviously wouldn't work, there was any way we could run our own tests on our own water. They literally laughed at me. Literally!! At a public meeting. There are any number of recordings and witnesses of the meeting and the laughter. Mr. Gonzalez thought it was especially funny. I'm a retired police officer and take the health and safety of my family, friends and neighbors very seriously.

This incident bothers me on a number of levels:

First the public personal affront by "public servants".

Second the cavalier attitude concerning our welfare.

Third and most troubling they laughed at a retired cop at a public meeting when he was asking questions about protecting the community and did it while being recorded? What kind of employee and confidence in their bureaucratic invulnerability is that indicative of? And these are the gentleman charged with deciding about our protection?

I hereby demand disciplinary action and a written apology.

They also indicated that things would proceed amazingly quickly obviously to avoid our being able to organize any kind of defense so because of the unreasonable schedule imposed by them they I need this resolved ASAP. If this isn't resolved in 10 days I will proceed through other avenues.

Thank you for your very prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



George H. Wissmiller

CC:

Lisa Jackson
Anne Rowan
Robert Kaplan

Ps Could you please send someone to the hearing who can at least keep a straight face. I'm hoping to be there and really don't want to be laughed at again.

GW