

NASA COMMENTS

AUGUST 28, 2013

I am Bonnie Klea, a former worker, a member of the West Hills Neighborhood Council and a member of the Work group. I am also an advocate for the sick workers.

In 1995 I was diagnosed with an environmental/work related cancer. My oncologist and radiologist said they were treating many patients who worked at Santa Susana. West Hills Hospital had a whole ward full of workers who had brain cancer. My radiologist also said he was treating many brain cancers.

My house was built in 1959 and is in close proximity to SSFL. After my diagnosis in 1995, I went door-to-door, neighborhood to neighborhood and asked about cancer incidents on each street. The numbers were staggering. Almost every house had cancer and multiple cancers. I received toxicology studies that were done of the 5 mile radius around Santa Susana and 3 studies showed my cancer was elevated by 50 percent.

In NASA's heyday all the test stands ran for 24 hours a day every day of the week. The emissions landed near the test stands and wherever the wind blew. My evening walks in the 1980's ended up in the hospital with asthma and hives. In the 1970's our children were born with learning disabilities and the schools adopted "special education" programs. Leaving the chemicals in place and fencing the property is not an option because the rain and wind carry it down to our lowlands.

The chemicals from NASA ran off site with hundreds of NPDES permit violations every time it rained. Brandies Barden Institute had multiple violations of chemicals on their property and many of the drinking wells in Simi are polluted with chemicals.

Comparing bird and animal health to human health is unscientific. Animals are smaller and have a short lifespan and their bodies handle chemicals differently than humans. Cancer can take 5-40 years to develop in humans.

Don't try to scare us with all the trucks. The Sepulveda Pass currently handles 379,000 vehicles per day and we are talking about 80,000 round trips spread over years and three routes of travel. Break that down for us into how many trips per hour or how many trips per day.

Don't send up empty trucks but use empty trucks to haul the fill and then refill with the contaminated soil.

The comments on reviving Silvernale Pond for the benefit of Bell Canyon and the wildlife and ecology were made without any knowledge of history of the site. In the early days of the SRE radioactive and chemical waste was discharged to an earthen dam behind the building. After the dam broke the waste was piped to Silvernale Pond. It was a holding area for toxins.

Needless to say, I fully support the AOC. NASA made this mess and profited from it. Take the test stands down and clean the chemicals under them. Don't leave your mess behind in our community for innocent generations to get sick.