

***El Pueblo Para El Aire y Agua Limpio* Kids Protecting Our Planet
Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment
Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice***

BREAKING NEWS: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 13, 2010

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HUGE VICTORY FOR KETTLEMAN CITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ALLIES

**CHEMICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT ABANDONS ATTEMPT
TO DUMP RADIOACTIVE WASTES IN KETTLEMAN CITY**

Kettleman City, CA – In a major victory for the residents of the embattled Latino farmworker community of Kettleman City and their environmental justice allies, corporate giant Waste Management, parent company of Chemical Waste Management, today announced they dropped their controversial attempt to dump radioactive wastes from the Santa Susana Field Laboratory at the Kettleman Hills hazardous waste landfill.

In a letter to Linda Adams, Secretary of Environmental Protection for California EPA, Robert Henry, Senior District Manager for Waste Management, wrote that "...Waste Management's Kettleman Hills Facility has voluntarily decided not to accept solid or hazardous wastes from any portion of the Santa Susana Field Lab because of the uncertainty and community concerns about levels of radioactive constituents in these materials."

Waste Management's decision came in response to three months of furious protest by residents, their community groups El Pueblo Para El Aire y Agua Limpio/People for Clean Air and Water, Kids Protecting Our Planet, Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice, Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment, Committee to Bridge the Gap, California Communities Against Toxics with support from dozens of other environmental justice groups. The last straw apparently came on January 7th when attorneys with CRPE sent Chem Waste a Notice of El Pueblo's Intent to Sue in response to the attempt to accept radioactive waste in violation of the company's permits and federal law.

"This is a great victory for our community," said Maricela Mares Alatorre, Kettleman City resident and spokesperson for El Pueblo. "This proves that as long as the people are vigilant and not complacent, we can protect our community because the government won't protect us."

"This is a huge David versus Goliath victory for this small community getting dumped on by a giant polluter, especially when the government would not enforce their own laws to stop the dumping of radioactive waste," said Bradley Angel, Executive Director of Greenaction. "Our next victory will be stopping the proposed expansion of the toxic waste dump."

Kettleman City groups and their allies have scheduled a major press conference for Wednesday, January 20th at noon in front of the Kings County government building to announce an important development in their fight against Chem Waste.