

PRESS CONFERENCE, HELD BY PACCE, AND GREENPEACE, IN FRONT OF
THE GOVERNORS' MANSION JANUARY 31, 91

Pat Costner of Greenpeace, USA, Gregory Ferguson, the attorney for People Against A Chemically Contaminated Environment, and myself, PACCE project coordinator, Sharon Golgan has just emerged from a meeting with some of Governor Clintons' campaign staff. We have presented them with quite a collection of data and information which will allow the Governor to make some quick and decisive choices on the future of the incinerator in Jacksonville Arkansas.

Throughout the past few years Governor Clinton has reassured the citizens of Jacksonville if the trial burn did not show the incinerator could destroy the dioxin to 99.9999% he would not allow the company to burn it. As you have already heard from Pat, they were not able to destroy the dioxin which was accidentally fed into the incinerator on Oct. 11, 1990, during the trial burn.

On January 17, a group of concerned citizens from around central Arkansas met with Senator Bumpers, and asked him to write a letter requesting an investigation into this burn. He agreed to do this for us. We told him of our plans to inform the Governor of our findings. As you all know the Governor has been very buisy and it has taken a while to arrange the meeting, but his staff has been very gracious in working with us to set this up as soon as they could, and we are thankful to them.

It is now the eleventh hour and there is no more time to waste. The citizens health, safety, and well being are at stake here and he must act very soon. We are asking the Governor to stop the Burn immediately, and to call an investigation into the entire project. We especially want to know why the EPA has forced this burn on our State and city knowing there was, in existance a viable alternative to incineration for several years. We want to know why the EPA lists HCB as a chemical which is harder to burn than dioxin, when chemists around the world say it is not harder to burn.

We feel if the EPA had spent as much time and money on research for alternatives as they have on their public relations in selling incineration to the public then we wouldn't be here today. Because of this burn and the findings here today there must be some new laws and regulations written to stop unsafe practices by the incineration industry. The EPA must reevaluate its practices and stop the influence coming from the industry which is controlling the practices of the agency. It must become the agency that practices what its name implies. PROTECTION! Governor Clinton, if you are successful in your bid for President of the United States we ask you to let one of your very first responsibilities be to investigate the EPA and set this most important agency that has the responsibility of protecting our children and families, on the right track. We wish you success in all of this and realize what you are going through is not an aasy struggle. We in Jacksonville know what it is like to struggle against forces that can not be forseen.

Today we place our hope and future in your hands in hope you will care deeply enough to take the time out of your busy schedule and understand what we have been through, trying to protect our families from this vishous attack on our lives, and STOP THE BURN!

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