

January 13, 2000

Mr. Jack P. Bell
723 N. Jackson Street
Clarksville, Arkansas 72830

Dear Mr. Bell:

Thank you for your letter of November 2, 1999 to President Clinton about the disposal of hazardous waste from homes. The White House forwarded your letter to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for response.

When leftover products containing hazardous components come from households, we refer to them as household hazardous waste (HHW). EPA and State programs are working to ensure that landfills are designed properly so that when HHW is disposed of, it will not pollute groundwater and surface water. Because modern landfills are carefully designed and monitored, it should be safe for you to dispose of your HHW in the landfill.

Also, many States and communities collect HHW to be reused, recycled, or sent to special facilities designed to manage hazardous waste. They do this because of concerns about future liability, if their current waste management facilities were to allow release of these hazardous waste to the environment. If you would like information on Arkansas' programs, you could contact either Janice Woodward or Tom Ezell of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality. Ms. Woodward can be reached at (501) 682-0877, while Mr. Ezell can be reached at (501) 682-0876.

I have enclosed two documents that EPA has written about HHW in case you would like to read more about our efforts. You can also get more information about HHW at EPA's website:

<http://www.epa.gov/msw/hhw.htm>

Thank you again for your concern about safe of hazardous waste disposal. I hope this information will be helpful to you.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Cotsworth, Director
Office of Solid Waste

Enclosures

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