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Guide to MS439 Alert Citizens for Environmental Safety(ACES) records

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Guide to
MS 439

Alert Citizens for Environmental Safety records

1989 – 1998 Span Dates

1 foot, 3 inches (linear)

Processed by Miguel Hernandez Vazquez
June 2019

Donated by Sandra Griffin on July 1, 1999.

Citation: Alert Citizens for Environmental Safety, 1989-1995, MS 439, C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department. The University of Texas at El Paso Library.

C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department
University of Texas at El Paso

Historical Sketch

Formed in 1983, Alert Citizens for Environmental Safety (ACES) was a nonprofit organization that researched, educated and provided information to communities in Hudspeth County, which would be affected by the construction of a low-level radioactive waste dump. During the 1990s, ACES' stated goals were the prevention of such a dump, and the establishment of long-term protection of the area's natural resources, in particular groundwater.

Aside from the nuclear waste threat, between 1992 and 2001, a Long Island, New York company called Merco Joint Venture, brought from New York as many as 45 train cars per day of sludge from New York City into their 129,000-acre West Texas property. The scale and scope of these projects represented a threat to the health of area residents due to water and air contamination.

ACES was directed by Roy Griffin, Sandra Griffin, and Linda Lynch who were dedicated for many years in collecting information on toxic waste from various government and non-government sources. They analyzed the information and provided literature based upon their findings to the public. The group also compiled information specific to West Texas projects. ACES membership was comprised of farmers, ranchers, town merchants, and families who were opposed to land burial and incineration of toxic materials as a disposal method.

ACES used information from various industries, information from environmental activist groups, federal resources, such as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and state resources, such as the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority. ACES also used UTEP Geology Department reports and government documents. The information collected was disseminated to the public through meetings and seminars and by other organizations.

The anti-nuclear waste dumping campaigns of the Hudspeth County residents and other organizations, including ones from Mexico, against Merco Joint Venture were successful, and nuclear waste dumping in Sierra Blanca, Texas, near the Rio Grande, ceased. ACES' successful fight is seen as a historical victory in Environmental Justice case studies.

Series Description or Arrangement

The records were left in the order found by archivist (original order, primarily alphabetical).

Scope and Content Notes

The ACES records date 1989 to 1998, bulk 1992-1994. The documents were left in original order. The records contain information about ACES members who played key roles in the fight against nuclear waste and environmental organizations. The records contain newspaper clippings, cartoons used in the press, faxes between other environmental organizations, publications, court cases, legislative papers, and extensive information about nuclear waste and sludge waste pollution.

Provenance Statement

Donated by Sandra Griffin on July 1, 1999.

Restrictions

None.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish material from the Alert Citizens for Environmental Safety (ACES) records must be obtained from the C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library. Citation should read Alert Citizens for Environmental Safety (ACES) records, MS439, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

Notes to the Researcher

Folder titles in square brackets were created by archivist; original folder titles were kept when present.

Some of the newspaper clippings from the *El Paso Times*, the *El Paso Herald*, and the *Hudspeth Herald* are fragile. Please handle with care.

See also:

Get the Lead Out Coalition records, MS615

Container List

Box #	Folde r #	Title	Contents	Date
1	1	[Sierra Blanca Alert]	Webpage print from 1998 describing the victory of Sierra Blanca Legal Defense fund over the Low Level Radioactive Waste Dump	1998-1999
1	2	Nuclear Waste Disposal Issues	Newspaper Clippings, Nuclear Waste Disposal Issues in el Paso-Juarez Region Part 1- Fort Hancock, TX, document Edited By Philip C Goodell Department of Geological Sciences UTEP	1991
1	—	[Printed List]	Printed list asking for senator to vote against H.R. 558/S.419, The Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Consent Act	1995
1	3	Sludge Info	Summary of a Report Prepared by ACES and Presented to The Texas Water Commission and EPA, Region 6, Cartoon from Gary Oliver	1990s
1	4	Marvin Resnikoff	Proposed Sierra Blanca Radioactive Waste Sites in Seismically Active Area, Interrogatories Regarding Faskin Ranch Site License Applicatio, Proposal to ACES by Radiocative Waste Managment Associates from Dr. Marvin Resnikoff Radioactive Waste Managment Associates	1994-1995
1	5	Chronicle Article	Two copies and the original "The Austin Chronicle" Article about the Hudspeth County Dump by Daryl Slusher	July 3, 1992
1	6	Who is ACES	Copies of ACES statements	1990s
1	7	What should be done W/ Radwaste?	Copies of the publication: "What Should be done with Radioactive Waste?"	June 1994
1	8	Newspaper Articles	Newspaper clippings of Radioactive related and ACES publications	1991-1995
1	9	[Gary Oliver	Gary Oliver cartoons	1993-

		“Golliver” Cartoons]		1994
1	---	<i>Partnerships Under Pressure Managing Low Level Radioactive Waste</i>	A book about Low Level Radioactive waste management	1989
1	10	At their disposal DMN Article	Dallas Morning News “At their disposal DMN Article” (9)	May 27, 1992
1	11	Rad Waste Primer	Research of Radwaste and environmental issues	June 1994
1	12	Is Burial of Rad Waste Safe	Article (5)	1990’s
1	13	Stop Dumping Flyer	Flyers (14)	May 1994
1	14	What is LLRW? (Low level radioactive waste)	Article (4)	May 1994
1	15	When Home becomes a Dumping Ground	San Antonio Express News Article “When Home becomes a Dumping Ground” (14)	August 23, 1992
1	16	Could Hudspeth County Become a Radioactive Waste Dump for the Nation?	Article (24)	1990’s
1	17	Correspondence	Correspondence of Sandra Griffin and Roy Griffin to senators and congressman, Texas Water Commission, Texas Wildlife Association	1991-1995
1	18	Grupo de los Cien	<i>Grupo de los Cien Artistas e Intelectuales A.C.</i> a reprint article of ACES	January 28, 1992
1	19	[Texas Environmental Equity & Justice Task Force Report 1993]	Texas environmental Equity & Justice Task Force Report 1993, Newspaper Clippings July 94, Map showing Merco locations and Nuclear Dump, Women Advocates for Human Rights Binational Forum March 1994	1993-1994
1	20	Newspaper Articles	Newspaper clippings	1992
1	21	ACES miscellaneous	Letters, Bulletin, Petition, Questionnaire, Thank letter	1990s

1	22	American Rivers	Most endangered rivers research by America's Principal River Conservation 1993	April 20, 1993
1	23	Census Statistics 1990	Census Statistics of Hudspeth County with annotations (4)	1991
1	24	Compact Agreement	Chronology of the Compact agreement, Draft of the Texas Compact and the proposed Radioactive Waste Disposal	1994
1	25	Conferences	Minutes and agendas of ACES conferences with <i>Grupo de los Cien</i> and Greenpeace	1993-1994
1	26	Faxes Numbers	Newspaper clipping to Hudspeth County Residents about Pete Gallego, Telephone numbers and Faxes of ACES use	1994
1	27	Environmental Racism and Justice	Environmental Justice, Environmental Racism research, correlation between racism and waste disposals in U.S. Sierra Club to Texas congress research	1994
1	28	Health Effects	Copies of publications about Health problems regarding radiation, Legal analysis	1991, 1994
1	29	Foundation for a Compassionate Society	Conferences programs, Breast Cancer and nuclear Radiation article	1994
1	30	Gary Oliver Cartoons	Gary Oliver cartoons	1994
1	31	Greenpeace/Sherry	Faxes of Sherry Lee from Greenpeace to the Griffins	1993-1994
1	32	Legislation	Legislative Bill text reports, A Bill To grant the consent of congress to the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact	1993
1	33	Low-Level Radioactive Waste Forum	1989 Low-Level Radioactive waste forum Mailing List, 1993 Low-Level Waste Meeting Report 1994, Low-Level Waste Forum Pre-Attendance List	1989, 1993-1994
1	34	Mailing List	Border Coalition Against Radiation	1990s

		****RESTRICTED	Dumping Attendees as of November 13, 1993, Telephone Directory May 93, Volunteer Lists with names, addresses and telephone numbers.	
1	35	News from Maine	Summaries of the reports between Maine Authority and the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission	1992-1994
1	36	Newspaper Articles for Info Requests	Compilation of the articles sent when anyone requested info of ACES	199's
1	37	Newspaper Article Special Report-Sludge EP Times	Articles and Newspaper clippings specials in El Paso Times	1992-1995
1	38	Nuclear Information and Resource Service	Information sheet of the status of nuclear activities from the NIRS, Update on recent legal activities bearing on the low-level nuclear waste dump	1991, 1993
1	39	Petitions Signed	Lists of the Hudspeth County residents who signed against Low-Level Radioactive Waste Dump	1991
1	40	Press Releases	ACES press releases	1992-1994
1	41	Rachel's News	Rachel's Hazardous Waste News weekly publications from #329 to #423	1993-1995
1	42	Radioactive Medical Waste	Nuclear Information and Resource Service Medical Factor	1993
1	43	Radioactive Waste Dump Fact Sheets Etc.	ACES publications Masters, Chronologies of events regarding the Radioactive Waste Dump near Sierra Blanca, Hudspeth County 91-94	1994
1	44	TX Radiation Advisory Board	Texas Radiation Advisory Board papers	1992
1	45	Sludge Literature	ACES sludge dumping research, Chronology surrounding of New York City Sewage Sludge near Sierra Blanca, Hudspeth County, TX Sept. 91--94	1994
1	46	Spanish Literature	ACES Spanish translated articles masters	1990s
1	47	SECC Safe Energy Comm. Council	Safe Energy Communication Council's publication Myth Busters #8	1992

1	48	Supreme Court Decision "Take Title"	Decision of the Supreme Court in the "Take Title" provision of the Low-Level Radioactive Waste	1992
1	49	TX Attorney General Dan Morales	Morales advice TWC to revoke MERCO Sludge Permit	1992
1	50	TX Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority	Texas Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority public circulation papers	1994
1	51	Waste Projects (Texcor, Chem Waste, SEG, etc.)	Proposal for border waste dumps, Information, Letter from Package of the proposed radioactive waste landfill of Texcor industries,	1990-1992
1	52	Scientific Ecology Group	Agreement between Cynthia Hoover (of Hudspeth County) and The Scientific Ecology Group	May 7, 1994
1	53	TX Nuclear Responsibility Network	Statement of purpose, Texas campaign for global security,	1992
1	54	Radioactive Waste Dump-Comments by others	Summary of arguments opposing the compact, Vermont Times, Ney York times, Research project by Amanda Thiebaud, Geologist consulting, do waste sites create jobs? Declaration of Joseph Vinso PH. D.	1990s
1	----	Juridical binder	Congressional pathway for approval, Review of House Politics, Review of Senate Politics, Documents, List, Other Available Information	1990s