

January 7, 2008

Ms. Laura Behjan
Assistant City Manager
City of Simi Valley
2929 Tapo Canyon Road
Simi Valley, CA 93063-2199

Re: Dade Moeller Runkle Canyon Strontium-90 soil sampling and City of Simi Valley 'split-samples' analyzed by Environmental, Inc.; etcetera

Dear Ms. Behjan:

On behalf of a group of concerned Simi Valley residents who maintain a website called *StopRunkledyne.com* and who are commonly known as the "Radiation Rangers," I would like to request a copy of the results of the entire City of Simi Valley's Environmental, Inc. report regarding its split-sample testing of soil samples obtained in Runkle Canyon by developer KB Homes' lab, Dade Moeller & Associates, Inc., performed during early October, 2007.

According to Environmental, Inc.'s split-sampling, the average concentration of strontium-90 (Sr-90) in the ten soil samples they tested was 0.0134 picocuries per gram (pCi/g). As you know, the EPA's background for Sr-90 in the area is 0.052 pCi/g. That means that the City's split sample results were *less than* - just 25.8% - of background.

Are we to believe that Runkle Canyon's soil, which is next to the site of this country's worst nuclear meltdown at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL), tests *cleaner* than the background readings of Sr-90 in the area? You yourselves voted for SSFL to be cleaned up to EPA Superfund levels. Do you really believe that the lab's pollution stops at the fence line?

This extraordinarily low result deserves more explanation than the one-page summary that you provided to reporter Michael Collins, who shared this information with me when he interviewed me recently.

The City's August 14, 2007 Tetra Tech, Inc. report on the City's two surface water and one surface soil samples resulted in an 87-page report. Yet your ten split-samples tested by Environmental, Inc. only warrant one page? How could that be so?

The entire Environmental, Inc. report should be made available immediately so that the citizens of Simi Valley can see what kind of sampling, sampling protocol, chain of possession, and most importantly, lab analysis resulted in just a quarter of background for Strontium-90 normally found in the area. We request that you post the entire report on your "Runkle Update" page online at the City's website as soon as possible.

As you are probably aware, the previous would-be developer, GreenPark Runkle, hired a lab to analyze Sr-90 concentrations in the soil as well and, in a report released in 1999, found far higher

concentrations as noted in the article “Neighborhood Threat” (*Los Angeles CityBeat/ValleyBeat*, March 10, 2005):

Foster Wheeler’s 58 soil samples averaged 1.39 pCi/g, or six times the EPA’s preliminary remediation goal and nearly 27 times above the typical EPA background level for Sr-90 in the area.

Therefore, the City’s recent split-sample results are nearly *104 times lower* than these previous results. This demands explanation and hence our request for the entire Environmental, Inc. report which is a publicly-paid-for document and therefore, by law, you must provide.

KB Homes has tried to assure the citizens of Simi Valley that the land is safe from Sr-90 contamination and generated their own Dade Moeller report which shows an average of 0.014 pCi/g for the 63 soil samples collected during the October 2007 sampling. This average is just 26.9% of the EPA’s background number for strontium-90 in the area – over 100 times less than what was tested for in 1999 by the developer’s lab.

The Dade Moeller report, shared with us after you provided it to Collins, also deserves explanation as it is just 10 pages and does not show, among other things, the kind of laboratory analysis that was performed. We request that you ask KB Homes for the entire report and that they provide it in the spirit of openness and trust that KB Homes claims to be attempting to create with the citizens of Simi Valley.

Time after time, we citizens have asked for a new Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Runkle Canyon development. Time after time, we have been told that it was not needed even when we showed that the developer had not tested the surface waters at the site for heavy metals though the developer and City maintained that they had.

As you know, we then tested this water and adjacent soil ourselves and found alarming amounts of arsenic, nickel and vanadium. On July 2, 2007, the City then tested the same materials, from approximately the same areas, accompanied by me to provide directions to where we had tested May 18, 2007.

Upon receiving the results and analysis by Tetra Tech for the City-funded testing for heavy metals, the City asserted that the tests came back negligible when, in fact, its arsenic in water results were 25% higher, 33% higher for nickel and 55% higher for vanadium. The City’s testing results also found alarming amounts of barium, cadmium and chromium but concluded that it didn’t present “an immediate threat,” even though this water flows into the Arroyo Simi which we use as drinking water and will have to tap even further due to the worsening water supply crisis. This alone should be a reason for a Supplemental EIR.

The City’s actions have not inspired our trust in its command of science or its intentions. It has repeatedly characterized the Rangers as ‘dangerous’ for raising obvious and understandable pollution concerns. One example is that the City Council has publicly demanded results from the Rangers’ July 2, 2007 testing, even though we never performed any such test. This assertion has never been retracted and impugns our character. It seems to be part of a pattern.

Community trust is not inspired by the fact that last week you told the *Simi Valley Acorn* that you had sent the Dade Moeller and Environmental, Inc. testing results to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), as well as the Department of Public Health, when, according to what you told Collins who relayed it to us, you actually hadn't sent the results to DTSC because you said they weren't expert in radiation analysis, even though that department has been given the task of overseeing the chemical *and radiological* cleanup of the neighboring SSFL, resultant of the passage of California Senate Bill 990 which the City supported.

The City has made much of getting the DTSC to weigh in on Runkle Canyon pollution concerns when, in fact, City Manager Mike Sedell said during the July 2, 2007 heavy metals sampling event that "We don't want the DTSC up here." I was there and heard him say it.

Community trust is not inspired by the fact that four out of five City Council members have received thousands of dollars in contributions from KB Homes and would-be developers of Runkle Canyon, as we show on *StopRunkledyne.com*. This is in direct contradiction to the City of Simi Valley's Code of Ethics and Conduct that admonishes City Council members to divulge any "material financial interest," which we maintain includes building a campaign treasury to get elected again, and also violates the spirit of this code which states that Council Members "shall abstain from participation in deliberations and decision-making where conflicts may exist."

Finally, community trust is not inspired by City officials' repeated assertions that it will be up to various government agencies whether Runkle Canyon will be developed. That is up to the City, as you well know.

Therefore, we demand that this issue is agendaized after the City, and subsequently the community, receive the full Environmental, Inc. and Dade Moeller reports and after DTSC completes its full analysis of the environmental hazards of the property. We also request that members of the community have at least 45 minutes to demonstrate why a new Environmental Impact Report is needed for any development of Runkle Canyon. Relegating our comments to three minutes each is unacceptable considering the enormous implications this ill-situated development portends for our City.

Sincerely,

Reverend John Southwick
Simi Valley, CA

CC: Mayor Paul Miller
Mayor Pro Tem Michelle S. Foster
Council Member Barbra Williamson
Council Member Glen T. Becerra
Council Member Steven T. Sojka
City Manager Mike Sedell

Mr. Scott Ouellette, KB Homes
Mr. Keith Jajko, KB Homes
Mr. Norman Riley, Department of Toxic Substances Control
Mr. Robert Greger, Department of Public Health
Ms. Denise Duffield, Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles
Mr. Dan Hirsch, Committee to Bridge the Gap
Ms. Christina Walsh, *CleanUpRocketdyne.org*
Mr. Michael Collins, *VC Reporter, LA CityBeat, EnviroReporter.com*
Ms. Anna Bakalis, *Ventura County Star*
Ms. Teresa Rochester, *Ventura County Star*
Ms. Darleen Principe, *Simi Valley Acorn*
Mr. Kyle Jorrey, *Simi Valley Acorn*