

Mr. Fredric Wiebe
2423 Tremont Place, Apt. 4
Denver, CO 80205

Dear Mr. Wiebe:

Thank you for your e-mail of June 30, 1999 to President Clinton suggesting that the Federal Government undertake a broad program of (1) informing the public regarding materials that need to be handled with extra care when disposed; (2) labeling these materials with a special logo or graphic, (3) providing a communication structure, and (4) providing necessary regulations.

Most of what you have proposed has been established over the last decade by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) was enacted in 1976 to address the huge volumes of municipal and industrial solid waste generated nationwide. Our *RCRA Orientation Manual* provides an excellent overview of this law, including updates made over the years, and the programs that we have established under the law.

We communicate directly with the public through our RCRA Superfund hotline (800) 424-9346, which enables the public to request documents and find answers to questions that they may have. In addition, over the last several years, we have developed an extensive website, including numerous publications, accessible at www.epa.gov/osw. This internet site provides information on three types of waste: hazardous waste, municipal solid waste, and special waste. Special waste consists of certain types of waste that do not fit either the category of hazardous waste or municipal solid waste. Although special graphics, or logos, have merit in certain situations, we have not developed the type of special logo that you suggested for these three types of wastes because some states and local governments have laws that, although they comply with Federal minimum standards, are different from them.

RO 14377

Because of your interest in communication of technical information to the public, you might be interested in knowing about EPA's EMPACT program. This program is a new approach to working with communities to collect, manage, and present environmental information of all kinds not just regarding waste. Their mailing address is EMPACT Program, U.S. EPA (8722R), 401 M St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460; their phone number is 202-564-6791; and their internet address is www.epa.gov/empact.

I hope you find this information helpful and thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Cotsworth, Director
Office of Solid Waste