



Memorandum

TO: All Faculty and Staff

FROM: Steve Kinslow, Executive Vice President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Kinslow".

DATE: December 14, 2001

SUBJECT: MERCURY TESTING AT RIO GRANDE CAMPUS

In prior communications on this subject, I indicated that I would share information as it becomes available.

Since my December 10 e-mail to you, a question was raised by the Texas Department of Health regarding the testing of Bolton Laboratories, our state-licensed environmental consultant, as well as the standard that was used. At our request, Bolton Laboratories retested the Rio Grande Campus yesterday. The Texas Department of Public Health (TDH) also conducted its independent tests of Rio Grande yesterday, using the same testing unit model and methodology as Bolton Laboratories.

The TDH testing included 16 rooms (chemistry labs, biology labs, physics labs, offices, and storage areas) and a total of 91 readings. While we await the TDH and Bolton final written reports, preliminary verbal exit interviews in each case indicate that the majority of the readings showed either no mercury levels at all, or levels that fell beneath the OSHA regulatory standard, and the guidelines suggested by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Diseases Registry. Two TDH readings were marginally positive and they are reviewing those readings to determine if they are valid or if additional testing is warranted.

The administration will share these final reports with you as soon as they are available. In addition, we are assembling a report that details the various safety procedures, training, facility improvements, and other precautions in place or budgeted/planned.

SK/pws