

COVANCE Q & A

What is Covance?	A contract testing lab that is a major polluter and has a long history of secrecy, deception, diseases getting past its quarantine facilities, Ebola outbreaks, and violations of federal law.
What diseases got past Covance quarantine?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tuberculosis, transmittable from non-human primates to humans according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 2. Bartonella Quintana, a cause of Trench Fever, which afflicted one million soldiers during World War I and is now a re-emerging disease that causes endocarditis, neurological disorders, and bone disease in humans. 3. Cryptosporidia, a frequent cause of gastroenteritis outbreaks among humans.
What Ebola outbreaks?	Covance—then called Hazleton—had four Ebola outbreaks: 1989 in Reston, Virginia; 1990 in Reston, Virginia and Alice, Texas; and 1996 in Alice, Texas. The book <i>The Hot Zone: A Terrifying True Story</i> by Richard Preston is about the Ebola incidents in Reston. At least six people tested positive for Ebola antibodies, and the CDC temporarily revoked Covance's primate importing license citing the lab's failure to meet guidelines for isolation and quarantine.
What federal violations does Covance have?	Numerous violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act resulting in fines by—and a settlement agreement with—the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).
What does Covance test?	A variety of substances including tobacco, industrial chemicals, pesticides, noxious substances, cosmetic ingredients, drugs, and pharmaceuticals.
Isn't Covance finding cures?	Covance does not create or develop anything. It performs toxicity tests, and Covance is unable to name any cures—or even how many treatments for any specific disease—it helped bring to market.
Isn't testing on animals good?	Not by this company because of its history of deception, disease outbreak, violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act, and alleged violations of the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act that prompted an investigation by the U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
How will Covance pollute the air?	Covance needs to dispose of approximately 250,000 animal carcasses each year. The most feasible way to do so is to incinerate them on site. Medical waste incinerators put dioxins, lead, mercury, and other known and unknown substances into the air, substances that cause a number of human health ailments including cancer, birth defects, and brain damage.
How will the government protect us against air pollution?	At this time, City of Chandler officials and staff, based on their answers to questions at a public meeting in February 2007, seem unwilling to consider an incinerator ordinance. There are currently no incinerators in Chandler and no medical waste incinerators operating in Arizona, California, or Nevada. All have been shut down due to health issues.
How will Covance pollute the water?	Covance will wash the feces and urine from approximately 250,000 animals per year directly into the wastewater system. Wastewater is used to irrigate some areas where it enters the groundwater and ultimately becomes drinking water. These animals will be dosed up to 500 times the human dose of unknown pharmaceuticals and other substances causing the amount of pharmaceuticals entering Chandler's wastewater system to increase exponentially.
How will the government protect us against water pollution?	According to officials at a public meeting in February 2007, there is no way to detect the presence of the unknown experimental substances that Covance will put into the wastewater system, but officials "think" there will not be enough chemicals in the water to harm humans. However, research shows that pharmaceuticals in water at environmental levels damage some aquatic animals and inhibit the proliferation of human embryonic cells by 30%.
How can the government determine the quantity of pharmaceuticals and other substances in the water if they cannot detect them?	They can't determine the quantity, and there are currently no state or federal regulations governing pharmaceutical contamination of water since it is a fairly new phenomenon. Due to disturbing research, however, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is expected to begin monitoring the presence of pharmaceuticals in our waterways in 2008. Regulation is expected to follow shortly afterward.
Isn't Covance bringing lots of jobs to Chandler?	There are currently 245,791 people living in Chandler and 87,452 jobs in Chandler. Covance says it will initially bring 400 jobs, which represents less than $\frac{1}{5}$ of 1% of the population and less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% of the jobs in Chandler. Covance says it will eventually employ 2,000 (although they have also said 1,200). 2,000 jobs represents $\frac{4}{5}$ of 1% of the population and less than 2.3% of the jobs in Chandler. A shopping mall would bring more jobs to Chandler.
Won't Covance bring high-quality jobs?	Large companies like Covance typically fill the higher-level positions with experienced personnel from their other locations, in this case from out of state.
Why don't you want Covance here?	Assuming Covance will eventually bring 2,000 jobs to Chandler, Covance will benefit less than 1% of Chandler residents while 100% of Chandler-area residents, workers, and shoppers will bear the health risks that Covance will bring.