



October 24, 2000

Mr. Mike McCann
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region III
801 Warrenville Rd.
Lisle, Illinois 60532

**Re: Former Michigan Chemical Company Low Level Radioactive Disposal Site
Breckenridge, Michigan**

Dear Mr. McCann:

This correspondence is submitted pursuant to the June 11, 1999 and February 22, 2000 correspondence from NWI Land Management (NWI) regarding the former Michigan Chemical Company low level radioactive disposal site in Breckenridge, Michigan (Site or Breckenridge Disposal Site). The June 11, 1999 correspondence proposed phases of activities to be performed to bring this site to an acceptable closure, and indicated that periodic progress reports would be submitted describing the progress being made regarding the scheduled activities. The February 22, 2000 correspondence was submitted in response to discussions at a January 21, 2000 meeting between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), NWI, and SCIENTECH NES, Inc (NES), NWI's radiological consultant, and contained a revised schedule and phases of activities. This progress report pertains to the time period from August 1, 2000 to October 3, 2000.

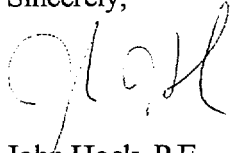
In the February 22, 2000 correspondence, NWI proposed to perform a preliminary dose assessment, additional characterization activities and a revised dose assessment (considering the additional characterization data). The Preliminary Dose Assessment (PDA) for the Breckenridge Disposal Site was completed in May 2000. A Work Plan that proposed additional characterization activities and incorporated the PDA was submitted on July 14, 2000.

A meeting was held between the NRC, NWI and NES on October 3, 2000. At the meeting, the NRC indicated that guidance is currently being prepared by the NRC Headquarters Office which will clarify the regulatory criteria applicable to sites such as the Breckenridge Disposal Site. The NRC also indicated that the guidance is anticipated to be finalized prior to the spring of 2001. Since the guidance may affect the activities proposed to be performed in the Work Plan, it was agreed that NWI will not proceed with the Work Plan until the guidance is finalized. To minimize the time necessary to agree upon a Work Plan once the guidance is finalized, it was further agreed that the NRC will provide written comments to NWI regarding the current Work Plan, and NWI will attempt to address those comments while the guidance is being finalized.

OCT 27 2000

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Hock', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

John Hock, P.E.
Environmental Project Manager

cc: Bruce Jorgensen, NRC
Mike Prattke
George Harvell
Ken Kasper, NES

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