

PIKE COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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www.pikechamber.org

September 30, 2005

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United States Nuclear
Regulatory Commission
Matthew Blevins, Project manager
Mail Stop: T7J-8
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Matt,

I am enclosing a copy of the report the Chamber submitted to the Department of Energy and USEC. As we told Brian Smith yesterday, part of the dilemma we have experienced this summer has been deciding who should receive the information.

There are a couple of points that I want to emphasize. First, none of the people who contributed information received any monetary rewards. This was strictly a case where a number of people wanted to make the history of events clear.

Second, in Jeffery Sea's testimony last night he referred to an earthwork on the Rittenour property. That earthworks is referred to in the report as the Nier property levy. This was designed after the 1959 flood by the soil conservation service.

Should you desire, we would be happy to submit statements from the Pike Countians who knew about or who participated.

I appreciate your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,



Blaine Beekman
Executive Director

SISP Review Complete

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ADM = M. Blevins (MXB6)

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September 28, 2005

United States Nuclear
Regulatory Commission
Matthew Blevins, Project Manager
Mail Stop T7J-8
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Blevins,

In response to our conversation, I am submitting a brief report on the origin of a series of levies along the Scioto River in southern Pike County. There are three separate levies. The northernmost is on the Nier property at the U.S. Route 23 entrance to Piketon Department of Energy facility. The middle levy is partially located on a Department of Energy well field located next to the Scioto River on the old Billy Cutlip farm. The third levy extends across 10 farms beginning at the Barnes property and extending south along the river to the Will Acord farm.

The confusion about the origins of these levies was surprising to the Scioto Township residents with whom I spoke. All three were manmade, constructed within the past half-century. No levies had previously existed on the properties. Many of the people involved in the projects are still available to share the record of their experiences. The levy on the Nier property and the levy covering the 10 lower properties were built in direct response to a catastrophic 1959 flood. The third levy near the DOE well field was in response to an economic need rather than a need for flood control.

Each of the levies is located on the east side of the Scioto River. To the west of the river, south of Piketon, the terrain is hilly. To the east, the land rises in a terraced manner from the river bottoms. The lowest level is only a few feet above the Scioto River water level. The second level is about 50 feet higher in elevation and occurs from a few feet to a quarter mile from the river's edge. Flooding along the Scioto River has never reached the top of this second level. Much of the area in question also has a third terrace level, again rising a few feet above the second level.

Historically, the land at river level has been utilized for farming. Late winter flooding on a periodic basis made the construction of residences at this level impractical. Floods on the Scioto River in 1913 and 1937 were considered major, but farmers in our target area either lacked the means or did not feel the need to construct levies to protect their properties.

The 1959 flood had a disastrous effect on the lowest level of land. The current was so strong that it devastated the soil. Art Nelson a farm employee of Layton and Everett Hammond, saw areas were several feet of topsoil had literally washed away, leaving the slate underlay exposed. A mile to the south, deposits of sand left by the flood, measured as much as 25 feet in depth.

Everett and Layton Hammond decided they needed to build a levy. They contacted the Pike Soil and Water Conservation District for assistance. Vince Scott and Jim Steiner were employees of the Federal Soil Conservation Service on loan to the Pike SWCD. Vince and Jim provided technical assistance the Hammond brothers, recommending that the levy be built perpendicular to the river to protect against current damage should another flood of the magnitude of the 1959 flood occur again. Paul "Bunk" Adams, a skilled bulldozer operator who completed a hundred projects for the Soil Conservation Service, completed the work under the supervision of Vince Scott and Jim Steiner. This is the levy on the Nier farm.

Everett and Layton Hammond also were instrumental in organizing the levy along the 10 farms further south. Several hundred acres of land at river level had basically been made untillable by the sand deposits. The final plan included reducing the sand piles by mixing them with soil to farm the levies. There was still plenty of sand left after the levy was completed. Art Nelson remembered that Bill Trusty, a Wakefield businessman hauled sand from one of the largest deposits. Teddy West, a local farmer, learned that much of the sand was sold to the Goodyear Atomic Corporation for use as backfill on a sewer project. Steve Acord, whose family farm was one of those involved in the levy project, stated that it took years to return to land to farm production.

The levy on the Cutlip farm was an entirely different situation. In 1968, Billy Cutlip sold his 390 acre farm to the Standard Slag Company of Youngstown. Standard Slag developed a sand and gravel quarry that eventually covered two-thirds of the property. In the early 1980s the Department of Energy built a series of wells at the river's edge of the Standard Slag property to furnish surface water for the centrifuge process being developed by Goodyear Atomic Corporation at the Piketon DOE facility. Teddy West farmed the lowest and second levels of the Standard Slag property from the 1970s to the early 1990s. He was farming the land when the DOE wells were being drilled. According to Bob Childers who was in charge of operations at the steam plant, the line was a 36" line which ran all the way from the river to the DOE facility. The project was engineered and the contracts were handled by DOE at Oak Ridge so there was not a lot of local DOE contact. Teddy West remembered that the line was not stable at its base. Ralph Beabout an employee at the plant's water system learned that pressure on the line at its source was too great for the concrete anchors designed to hold the line in place. Modifications included more concrete and ground cover. The result is a levy-like appearance.

The second factor was the need for Standard Slag to find a place to put a sizeable amount of overburden when it expanded its quarry operation. One solution, according to Don Nelson, the manager of the Standard Slag operation until 1992, was to take the overburden down to the river

and build a levy, essentially hooking it to the DOE well site. The dirt was placed between the wells and the river because Standard Slag hoped to begin quarrying at the level next to the river. However, when the company ran extensive tests near the river, Don discovered the overburden was too deep and the water table was too high to make quarrying of that area economically feasible.

At first, the levy was kept mowed and it was possible to drive on it. When the quarrying idea was discarded, the levy was left pretty much to itself.

I hope this will answer some of the questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Blaine Beekman", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Blaine Beekman
Executive Director