

March 16, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR: Don E. Funk, Inspection and Compliance Specialist

THROUGH: Roy J. Caniano, Chief, Fuel facilities and
Contaminated Sites Section

FROM: D. G. Wiedeman, Senior Health Physicist

SUBJECT: ALLEGATION RE: CONTAMINATED LANDFILL
UNDOCKETED/UNLICENSED,
(AMS NO. RIII-92-A-0022)

On March 11, 1992, I contacted the alleged by telephone to get additional information regarding the allegations that were provided to Region III on February 20, 1992, (see memo to Funk from Shear, undated). The alleged provided the following information:

1. (b) represents a 15 member organization called Cannon Hollow Environmental Coalition which is made up of local residents.
2. The name and address of the facility in question is Schuylkill Metals Corporation, Cannon Hollow Branch, P.O. Box 38, Highway 111, Forrest City, Missouri.
3. Schuylkill Metals Corp. is a company that re-cycles battery lead and they also purchase scrap lead for processing and sales to other manufacturers.
4. The alleged stated that Schuylkill Metals has a history of regulatory problems with U. S. EPA, State Department of Health and Mo. Department of Natural Resources. (b) also stated that Schuylkill owns a site in Florida that is currently on the EPA Superfund list because of groundwater chemical contamination.
5. The alleged claims that the (b) has a list of names of people that can support (b) allegations. Several of them are former employees, (b) phone # unknown, and another, (b) phone # unknown. The alleged claims that several years ago (b) found a vial labeled "radioactive" in a lead container. When this matter was brought to the attention of the Plant Manager, Sam Pearson, a check was made with a geiger counter; however, the radiation levels were never discussed with the individuals involved; however the alleged was not sure if these individuals ever asked for the survey results..

Information in this record was deleted
in accordance with the Freedom of Information
Act, exemptions 6, 7C
FOIA- 92-278

6. The alleged had copies of water monitoring data from Schuylkill dated March 28, 1984 taken from well# OW10 and OW12 (which have now been capped) and he was concerned that no one was investigating the cause of the "high radiation" levels found in the water. The results relayed to me were the following:

gross alpha 30 ± 15 pCi/liter
gross beta 24 ± 17 pCi/liter
gross beta 27 ± 15 pCi/liter
gross beta 56 ± 40 pCi/liter

The alleged sounded agitated when I mentioned that these levels did not appear excessive when you compare them to the EPA Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLG's) and National Primary Drinking Water Standards of 15 pCi/liter gross alpha and 20,000 pCi/liter/year from tritium (pure beta emitter).

7. The alleged had two allegations that (b) wanted the NRC to look into, these are: (1) When other regulatory agencies arrive onsite to take a water sample they are told to return the next day. Then during the night shift they pump the monitoring wells dry then fill them with clean water, and (2) (b) would like the NRC to take samples of their monitoring wells and have them analyzed to ensure that Schuylkill's reported data is accurate. (b) feels that they do not report accurate data to the other regulatory agencies.

8. As a side issue (b) stated that the Missouri Department of Health (Daryl W. Roberts) and U.S. EPA Region VII (Denise Jordan and Robert Dye) have active investigations ongoing with this company; however, (b) local environmental group do not trust these agencies and they feel that top management from these agencies have suppressed these investigations.

On March 12, 1992, I contacted Mr. Daryl W. Roberts, of the Missouri Department of Health (MDH), phone no. (314) 751-6102, and he confirmed that MDH and U. S. EPA have an on-going investigation into numerous allegations at Schuylkill Metals along with a epidemiological study and health effects evaluation in and around the Schuylkill area.

On March 16, 1992, I contacted Art Spratlin and Bob Dye of the U. S. EPA, Region VII office in Kansas City, Kansas (phone no. FTS 276-7020, and confirmed that for the past four years they have investigated numerous allegations from the Cannon Hollow Environmental Coalition. They have had unconfirmed reports that the groundwater is contaminated with radioactivity, trucks with "Radioactive" placards have dumped material onsite at Schuylkill Metals and that vials with radioactive labels have appeared at the site inside lead containers. Mr. Dye indicated that each allegation involving the use or disposal of radioactive material at Schuylkill Metals has been investigated by EPA. Mr. Dye also informed me that this facility is considered an EPA Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) site because of their prior burials and disposals of toxic chemicals and heavy metals.