



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

December 24, 1992

The Honorable Wayne T. Gilchrest  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-2001

Dear Congressman Gilchrest:

I am responding to your December 1, 1992, letter concerning the radioactive contamination at the Curtis Bay Depot in Baltimore, Maryland. I share your concern for ensuring the protection of the public health and safety of residents in this area and want to assure you that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is moving aggressively in an effort to resolve the extent to which the site will require further remediation. Enclosure 1 to this letter responds to each of the questions raised in your letter.

At the request of the NRC, the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) conducted a radiological survey of warehouses and adjacent land, at the Curtis Bay Depot, in May 1992. NRC requested that ORISE perform the survey because the NRC recognized that the site exceeded its current criteria for unrestricted release of a site. The objective of this survey was to evaluate the current radiological status of the site. In September 1992, ORISE reported the results of the survey in "Radiological Survey of Portions of the Curtis Bay Depot General Services Administration, Baltimore, Maryland." A copy of this report can be found in Enclosure 2. The report indicates that contamination exists in a small number of locations with limited areal extent on the floors and in soil beneath or immediately adjacent to the former warehouses. Although the report indicates that the level of contamination exceeds NRC's current criteria for unrestricted use and could lead to small doses over an extended period of time, NRC believes that these contamination levels do not pose an immediate threat to public health and safety.

NRC is presently working with the General Services Administration (GSA) and the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), in an effort to ensure the site is remediated in a timely and effective manner. The first step in addressing site remediation is to decide which agency has responsibility for the remediation. GSA and DLA are now determining this. NRC staff expects that this determination will be made by early 1993. Once the lead agency responsibility has been established, a plan and schedule will be prepared for characterizing the site and remediating the contamination. NRC will provide you with the schedule for remediating the site as soon as it is developed.

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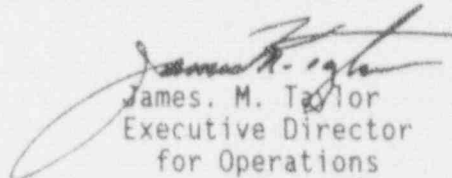
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If you have additional questions, or if you wish to discuss this matter further, please have your staff contact Dennis Rathbun, Director, Office of Congressional Affairs at (301) 504-1776.

Sincerely,

  
James M. Taylor  
Executive Director  
for Operations

Enclosures:

1. Response to Congressman Gilchrest's concerns about radioactive contamination at Curtis Bay Depot
2. ORISE, "Radiological Survey of Portions of the Curtis Bay Depot, General Services Administration, Baltimore, Maryland," September 1992

cc:

Mr. Harold Quinn, Director  
of Planning Staff, GSA  
Ms. Marilyn S. Barnett  
Administrator, DLA  
Mr. Lawrence M. Ward, Deputy  
Assistant Secretary, Maryland  
Department of the Environment  
Dr. Katherine Farrell, Deputy  
Health Officer, Anne Arundel  
Health Department