



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

December 21, 1992

The Honorable William D. Schaefer
Governor of Maryland
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Governor Schaefer:

I am writing to inform you of Nuclear Regulatory Commission activities related to the decommissioning of a site contaminated with radioactive materials -- the Aberdeen Proving Ground site located in Aberdeen, Maryland. The cleanup of this contaminated site is a high priority for NRC. We want to ensure that the State is aware of these cleanup activities. NRC intends that there will be coordination with the State in order that cleanup activities can be managed in an efficient and timely manner.

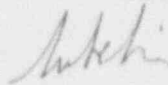
Since the late 1980's, NRC has continued to strengthen its decommissioning program. A major item of concern is the decommissioning of contaminated sites that involve non-routine issues, such as large volumes of radiologically contaminated material, problems with the financial viability of the responsible party, groundwater contamination, and mixed radioactive and hazardous waste. To focus NRC efforts in this area, NRC staff issued the Site Decommissioning Management Plan (SDMP) on March 29, 1990 (SECY-90-121). Revision 2 of the SDMP, SECY-92-200, was issued on May 29, 1992 (see enclosure). The SDMP lists the non-routine sites identified to date and outlines a strategy for accomplishing the cleanup of these sites in a timely manner. A summary description of the Aberdeen Proving Ground site, including the concentration and volume of waste present and the cleanup activities conducted to date, is given in the enclosed SDMP.

The oversight of the SDMP site cleanups poses unique challenges to NRC. One important challenge is to ensure that State interests are taken into account. On November 19, 1992, NRC held a workshop in Rockville, Maryland, with SDMP site licensees, owners, and other interested parties to discuss the issues affecting the timely cleanup of SDMP sites. Neil Thompson, Thomas Ferguson, and William Bonta from the Maryland Department of the Environment attended this workshop. After the workshop, the State representatives in attendance, from your State as well as others, met with representatives from the NRC Office of State Programs to generally discuss State interests in SDMP site cleanup activities. To help NRC better understand your specific interests in regard to the Aberdeen Proving Ground site, we would ask you to inform us of the anticipated areas of State involvement that may affect the selection and implementation of cleanup actions at that site. We encourage continued communication between the State of Maryland and NRC so that we may efficiently develop a mutually acceptable strategy and schedule for fulfilling our respective responsibilities.

The Honorable William D. Schaefer -2-

The NRC contacts for SDMP site cleanup issues are Robert M. Bernero, Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS), at 301-504-3352, or John H. Austin, Branch Chief, Decommissioning and Regulatory Issues Branch, NMSS, at 301-504-2560. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ivan Selin', is written above the printed name.

Ivan Selin

Enclosure: SDMP, SECY-92-200

cc: NRC State Liaison Officer