



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20565

December 21, 1992

The Honorable John Ashcroft
Governor of Missouri
State Capitol
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Governor Ashcroft:

I am writing to inform you of Nuclear Regulatory Commission activities related to the decommissioning of sites contaminated with radioactive materials located in the State of Missouri. The cleanup of these contaminated sites 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.

Of the 46 sites listed in the SDMP, two are located in the State of Missouri:

1. Department of Army, Independence, MO
2. West Lake Landfill, St. Louis, MO

A summary description of each site, including the concentration and volume of waste present and the cleanup activities conducted to date, is given in the enclosed SDMP.

Both the Department of Army and West Lake Landfill sites are listed on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Priorities List. Although NRC maintains jurisdiction over the radioactive material at these sites, our current understanding is that the lead for cleanup activities at the West Lake Landfill site rests with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the EPA, and that the lead for cleanup activities at the Department of the Army site rests with NRC. If the State of Missouri has additional interests in the cleanup activities at these sites that have not been addressed, please communicate them to us.

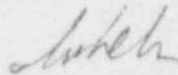
The Honorable John Ashcroft

- 2 -

The oversight of the SDMP site cleanups poses unique challenges to NRC. One important challenge is to ensure that State responsibilities and interests are addressed. 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. Ray Strebler from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources 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. We encourage continued communication between the State of Missouri and NRC so that we may efficiently develop a mutually acceptable strategy and schedule for fulfilling our respective responsibilities.

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,



Ivan Selin

Enclosure: SDMP, SECY-92-200

cc: Ronald A. Kucera
NRC State Liaison Officer