



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

December 21, 1992

The Honorable Robert P. Casey  
Governor of Pennsylvania  
State Capitol  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Governor Casey:

I am writing to inform you of Nuclear Regulatory Commission activities related to the decommissioning of sites contaminated with radioactive materials located in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The cleanup of these contaminated sites is a high priority for NRC. We want to ensure that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is aware of these cleanup activities. NRC intends that there will be coordination with the Commonwealth 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, 14 are located in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

1. Babcock and Wilcox, Apollo, PA
2. Babcock and Wilcox, Parks Township, PA
3. Budd Company, Philadelphia, PA
4. Cabot Corporation, Boyertown, PA
5. Cabot Corporation, Reading, PA
6. Cabot Corporation, Revere, PA
7. MolyCorp, Washington, PA
8. MolyCorp, York, PA
9. Permagrain, Karthaus, PA
10. Pesses Chemical, Pulaski, PA
11. Safety Light Corporation, Bloomsburg, PA
12. Schott Glass, Duryea, PA
13. Westinghouse (Waltz Mill), Madison, PA
14. Whittaker Metals, Greenville, PA

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.

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. Margaret Reilly from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Bureau of Radiation Protection 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 these sites, we would ask you to inform us of the anticipated areas of the Commonwealth's involvement that may affect the selection and implementation of cleanup actions at SDMP sites. We encourage continued communication between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 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: William P. Dornsife  
NRC State Liaison Officer