

APR - 2 1997

Mr. Donald A. Flater, Chief
Bureau of Radiological Health
Iowa Department of Public Health
Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Mr. Flater:

This letter is in response to your letter dated February 5, 1997 in which you requested assistance regarding DOE's proposed remediation at the Ames Laboratory. The specific issue in your letter was the DOE use of "natural attenuation" as the remedial solution for the uranium contamination in the groundwater at the site.

Since uranium chemically is an inorganic compound, the term "natural attenuation" would refer to the geophysical/chemical processes (adsorption; absorption; oxidation/reduction/precipitation) that the contaminated water would go through as it flows through the site geology. The geology will act as an ion-exchange column selectively removing certain dissolved constituents. This process will, over time, filter the water.

This process (sometimes called natural flushing) is being proposed by DOE for groundwater remediation in the Title 1 program under the UMTRCA. NRC considers this approach acceptable if the ground use is controlled until the groundwater has reached levels in the EPA cleanup standards (40 CFR 192). Although the Ames Laboratory remediation is not covered by these standards, a similar approach appears reasonable.

If you have any questions on this response, please call me at (301) 415-3340 or Dennis Sollenberger at (301) 415-2819

Sincerely,

Original Signed By
RICHARD L. BANGART

Richard L. Bangart, Director
Office of State Programs

170160
Distribution:
DIR RF (7S-28)
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Iowa File

DCD (SP07)
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*See previous concurrence.

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OFFICE	OSP	OSP:DD	NMSS:DWM	OSP:D				
NAME	DSollenberger:gd	PHLohaus	JHolonich	RLBangart				
DATE	03/25/97*	03/25/97*	04/01/97*	04/02/97				

OSP FILE CODE: SP-AG-9

NRC FILE CENTER COPY

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PDR STPRG ESGIA
PDR

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Iowa Department of Public Health
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NAME	DSollenberger:gd	PHLohaus	JHolonich	RLBangart				
DATE	03/25/97*	03/25/97*	03/ /97	03/ /97				

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OFFICE	OSP	OSP:DD	NMSS:DWM	OSP:D				
NAME	DSollenberger:gd	PHLohaus	JHolonich	RLBangart				
DATE	03/15/97	03/15/97	03/ /97	03/ /97				

OSP FILE CODE: SP-AG-9



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 2, 1997

Mr. Donald A. Flater, Chief
Bureau of Radiological Health
Iowa Department of Public Health
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Des Moines, IA 50319

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Office of State Programs

EXECUTIVE TASK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

<<< PRINT SCREEN UPDATE FORM >>>

TASK # - 7S-28

DATE- 02/05/97

MAIL CTRL. - 1997

TASK STARTED - 02/05/97

TASK DUE - / /

TASK COMPLETED - / /

TASK DESCRIPTION - 2/5/97 LTR - DECOMMISSIONING A SITE - "NATURAL
ATTENUATION"

REQUESTING OFF. - IOWA

REQUESTER - D. FLATER

WITS -

0

FYP - N

PROG. -

PERSON -

STAFF LEAD -

PROG. AREA -

PROJECT STATUS -

OSP DUE DATE:

PLANNED ACC. - N

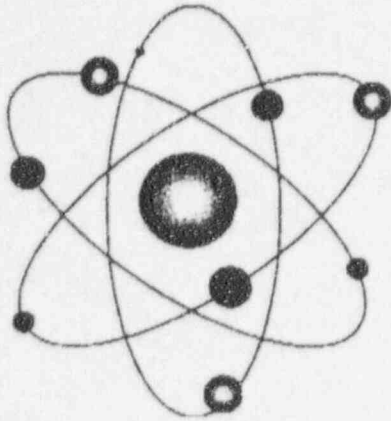
LEVEL CODE - 1

Assigned to: DMS4

ALB2
CC: PAL
SCD

Dennis,
Don called me about this. He believes "natural attenuation" may be related to new decommissioning/remediation technologies, like use of bacteria in soil cleanup. I told him we would check with RES to find out if they had any info/knowledge.

ALB2
02/06/97



Iowa Department of Public Health
Division of Health Protection
Bureau of Radiological Health
Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
(515) 242-6285 FAX

Telecopy Message

Date: 2-5-97

Time: 12:50 am

To: R. Bangert

FAX No.: (301) 415-3502

From: Don Flaten

Number of pages sent following this cover sheet: 1

Special instructions or comments: _____

Note: If you do not receive all of the pages, or if any of the pages are illegible, please contact us.

Contact Person: Ramona

Telephone: (515) 281-7784

Division: HP

OSP
97 FEB -5 PM 4:13