

FUSRAP Document Management System

Year ID
00 3360

Further Info?

Operating Unit
Iowa

Site
IAAAP

Area

MARKS Number
FN:1110-1-8100g

Primary Document Type
Site Management

Secondary Document Type
Correspondence

Subject or Title
Response to 7/26/02 Correspondence Regarding the FUSRAP portion of the IAAAP and its Unresolved Legal and Technical Issues Related to the Initiation of the Project

Author/Originator
Col. Kevin Williams

Company
CEMVS-DE

Date
9/9/2002

Recipient (s)
Gene Gunn

Company (-ies)
EPA

Version
Final

Original's Location
Central Files

Document Format
Paper

Confidential File?

Comments

Include in which AR(s)?

- North County
- Madison
- Downtown
- Iowa

ETL

SAIC number

Filed in Volume

Bechtel ID





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ST. LOUIS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
8945 LATTY AVENUE
BERKELEY, MISSOURI 63134

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

SEP 09 2002

CEMVS-PM-R

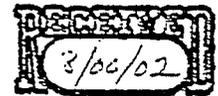
Mr. Gene Gunn
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region VII
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

Dear Mr. Gunn:

Thank you for your letter of July 26, 2002 regarding the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant (IAAAP) Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) project. I recognize that there are numerous unresolved legal and technical issues related to the initiation of the FUSRAP project at IAAAP. My staff will be contacting U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) staff, Iowa Department of Public Health staff and other interested stakeholders regarding scheduling a preliminary meeting in conjunction with the Restoration Advisory Board meeting on September 19, 2002. This would be the first step in identifying these issues and the path forward to resolve them.

In addition, the Corps appreciates EPA's interest in the issue of applicability of the existing Federal Facilities Agreement to the FUSRAP. This issue has similarly interested us and is currently under review by my Office of Counsel. It is our intention to respond specifically to this issue by separate correspondence within the next two weeks.

With regard to the radiological flyover effort, members of my staff, the Department of Energy, the flyover contractor, Iowa Department of Public Health, Operations Support Command, Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, Mr. Gene Gunn and Mr. Scott Marquess of your staff met on August 26, 2002 at the IAAAP to discuss the details of the flyover and comments on the draft Scope of Work for the flyover effort, which had been furnished to all parties for prior review. As a result of this meeting and prior conversations, the Corps has decided to incorporate the results of the radiological flyover, Department of Energy redacted information, which was received after the Preliminary Assessment (PA) was drafted, and any additional information into a modified Historical Site Assessment (HSA). However, I would like additional information regarding your statement that you "believe that additional information and considerations may be appropriate for inclusion in the HSA." A more specific explanation or description of your expectations regarding "information and considerations" would be beneficial in ensuring that the modified document meets your needs. In addition, as a result of this meeting, the Corps has agreed to furnish a work description plan regarding the objectives of the flyover, specific technical aspects of the flyover, sampling/data collection methods, objectives and procedures to be used for evaluation of data.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII
901 NORTH 5TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101
JUL 26 2002

C. Kevin Williams
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Engineer
St. Louis District, Corps of Engineers
8945 Latty Avenue
Berkeley, MO 63134

Yolanda C. Dennis-Lowman
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding
Iowa Army Ammunition Plant
17571 State Highway 79
Middletown, IA 52638-5000

Dear COL Williams and LTC Dennis-Lowman:

We have reviewed the letter of July 2, 2002, which indicates that portions of the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant (IAAP) have been designated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to be addressed under the Formerly Used Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). As you are aware, the IAAP is listed on the Superfund National Priorities List. A CERCLA 120 Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) for the IAAP was signed in 1990 between the Army and EPA. This FFA describes how the Army is to investigate and remediate environmental impacts at the IAAP, outlines a procedural framework for implementing and monitoring these investigatory and remedial actions, and outlines a framework for the exchange of information and cooperation among the parties. The FFA applies to all releases and threats of release of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants at or from the IAAP.

Given that the prospects for the inclusion of IAAP in the FUSRAP program have been evident for some time, EPA has long been interested in understanding how the Army proposes to integrate FUSRAP investigatory and response actions within the scope of the Army's existing obligations under the FFA. As indicated in the July 2 letter, the Corps intends to begin working to resolve the numerous technical and legal issues related to the initiation of the FUSRAP project at IAAP. EPA is eager to finally begin meaningful dialogue on this long-standing issue of concern as well. We recommend that a meeting of the interested stakeholders be arranged as soon as possible so that the Army may present a proposal to expeditiously move forward with tangible efforts to address FUSRAP-related contamination at the IAAP.

The July 2 letter notes that the decision to include IAAP in FUSRAP will allow the Corps to proceed with a complete remedial investigation (RI) to fully determine the degree and extent of Atomic Energy Commission contamination at the site. As our agencies have agreed, the Multi-

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Agency Radiation Survey and Site Investigation Manual (MARSSIM) should serve as the primary technical guidance, where applicable, for developing the FUSRAP RI as it applies to possible releases of radiological contaminants. Further, it is clear that potential radiological contamination is a significant concern to a number of IAAP stakeholders. Given these concerns, EPA is especially anxious to initiate the process outlined in the MARSSIM guidance. Our initial focus should be on reaching consensus among the stakeholders regarding a comprehensive Historical Site Assessment (HSA). The Corps has completed an internal "Preliminary Assessment" of the IAAP for purposes of evaluating the site for inclusion in FUSRAP. We are unclear whether the Corps believes that this document is sufficient to serve as the HSA under MARSSIM. We believe that additional information and considerations may be appropriate for inclusion in the HSA. Upon completing the HSA with consensus of the stakeholders, we should quickly move towards development of an appropriate Radiological Scoping Survey.

As you are aware, the matter of the Radiological Scoping Survey has been the subject of much discussion over the past months. EPA suggests that the Army, the Corps, the Iowa Department of Health, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and interested stakeholders begin dialog to better define the details and merits of such a survey. Issues that need better definition would include the scope of the survey, information gathered during the development of the HSA, regulatory expectations for such a survey, data quality objectives, derived concentration guideline levels (DCGLs), survey methods and capabilities, and numerous other survey considerations as outlined in Chapters 4 and 5 of MARSSIM.

While much of the focus and discussion regarding FUSRAP involvement at the IAAP has centered on concerns regarding possible radiological contamination, we are equally concerned with how FUSRAP will be integrated into the IAAP cleanup program under the existing FFA, and how FUSRAP will address non-radiological contaminants.

Please contact me at (913) 551-7776 at your earliest convenience so that we may begin these important discussions

Sincerely,



Gene Gunn

Chief

Federal Facilities / Special Emphasis Branch
Superfund Division

cc:

Don Flater, IDPH

Dan McGhee, IDPH

Dan Cook, IDNR

Kevin Howe, USACE

Kevin Tiemeier, OSC