

*Effective Citizen Action Since 1969*

# Missouri Coalition for the Environment

6267 Delmar Boulevard, Saint Louis, Missouri 63130

(314) 727-0600, FAX: (314) 727-1665

Email: MoEnviron@aol.com

June 3, 1996

The Honorable Hazel O'Leary  
Secretary of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D. C. 20585

RE: St. Louis FUSRAP Sites

Dear Secretary O'Leary:

I received a letter dated May 29 from Richard L. Nace in response to my letter to you of May 13. It was a very cordial letter, but completely nonresponsive to the concerns I had previously expressed. It did reinforce my fear that all of the efforts of the St. Louis Site Remediation Task Force will be for naught unless we "arrive" at a consensus that conforms to the prevailing DOE gospel.

Even more disturbing was the unannounced and unwarranted appearance at our last meeting of Mr. Les Price of DOE Oak Ridge. After a few obligatory courtesies about what a great job we are all doing on the task force, Mr. Price proceeded to take up one-half of our agenda time informing us in no uncertain words that we were crazy if we think DOE is going to abide by any decision the task force makes so long as we insist on Option 4 clean-ups (i.e., excavation and removal). Earlier in his remarks he complained that some members had suggested that DOE was trying to control the outcome of the task force proceedings. (I assume that this complaint is directed at me as he was overheard to mention an earlier letter of mine to our task force chairperson Sally Price.) He then apologized for not having Dave Adler be more assertive during our priority setting process. So while protesting that DOE had not been heavy-handed, Price promised that DOE would not be dictated to.

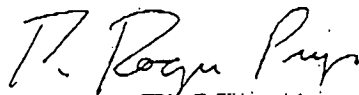
My first reaction to Mr. Price was the same as most task force members -- outrage! But he may have done us a favor by uniting us against a common enemy. Congressman Talent has been very faithful about being represented at these meetings and because of the concerns of the affected communities in the 2nd District, I gather he is willing to fight for the necessary funding to clean up these sites in a way that is wholly supported by the communities and the task force. But Price would not give a firm answer to the question if called before Congress to testify about such an appropriation: "Would DOE support such an appropriation?"

Unlike most of these abandoned sites in the country, DOE does not own these properties. There are more than 100 different affected properties, all owned by private parties or local governments. These should be given a very high priority for complete clean-up, starting with the old airport landfill site.

If DOE is just going to stonewall this matter, then we as task force members should just go to the press and blow the whistle on this subterfuge. I was invited to the White House this week to see the President and to meet with senior administrators in the administration on environmental matters. Pomp and circumstance while

a pleasant diversion -- even such an ego-satisfying event as a White House reception  
-- is no substitute for decisive action and honest public communication.

Yours sincerely,



R. Roger Pryor  
Executive Director  
**Missouri Coalition for the Environment**

cc Katie McGinty, White House  
Rep. James Talent  
Mr. David Shorr, MoDNR