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Department of Energy  
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

MAY 29 1996

Reid  
6/1/96

Mr. R. Roger Pryor  
Executive Director  
Missouri Coalition for the Environment  
6267 Delmar Boulevard  
St. Louis, Missouri 63130

Dear Mr. Pryor:

This is in response to your May 13, 1996, letter to the Secretary concerning the Department of Energy environmental restoration activities in the St. Louis area. As you know, remedy selection activities for these sites are being assisted by input from the St. Louis Site Citizens Task Force. You and your organization's contribution to this effort is greatly appreciated, and I recognize that this effort is a challenging one. In order for us to succeed, we must identify an approach that is environmentally sound, financially responsible, and implementable. It is our belief that realistic options for meeting these objectives exist, though they will require creativity, leadership, and partnership on the part of all key participants.

While complete out-of-State relocation of all impacted soils would surely meet with general approval from local interests, the costs and implementation risk associated with such an approach must be considered. Historically, the Department has considered all possible alternatives, but the alternatives need to be based on realistic assessment of current and future land use, as well as being protective of health and the environment. Ultimately, we need to consider numerous approaches, including combinations of relocating impacted soil, stabilizing materials in place, and restrictions on the use of selected area properties.

The Department will continue to work closely with the St. Louis community to identify possible alternatives for the cleanup of the St. Louis sites. The Department applauds the efforts you and the other members of the St. Louis Citizens Task Force have made thus far and encourage further work towards a workable remedy. Thank you for your continued support of the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Nace  
Acting Director  
Office of Eastern Area Programs  
Office of Environmental Restoration

