



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

APR 10 1996

ES-96-005924

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

THROUGH:

[Signature] The Acting Under Secretary

FROM:

[Signature]
Richard J. Guimond
Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Environmental Management

SUBJECT:

ACTION: Inquiry about the Hazelwood, Missouri, Low-Level Waste Site Cleanup

ISSUE:

Congressman James Talent has written to the Department of Energy requesting information on the cost of cleanup alternatives for the St. Louis Site. His reference to Hazelwood, Missouri, a site in his district that has contaminated soil, is the location for an onsite alternative the Department has considered. The alternative would basically bring material from the other St. Louis sites to a single location for disposal. The waste is low-level radioactive contaminated soil.

Congressman Talent's concern is with an apparent disparity in the cost between the onsite option mentioned above and a commercial disposal option. The enclosed response identifies the basis for the cost differences in current estimates. It also states our plans for developing estimates in June.

SENSITIVITIES:

- Congressman Talent has in the past implied that if the Department needs to excavate the soil, it should take it away for offsite disposal.
- The program is working with the Environmental Management Advisory Board and citizens groups to develop alternatives for this site and others.

POLICY IMPACT:

None

RECOMMENDATION:

Sign the letter to Congressman Talent.

Concurrence:

Congressional/Forrister

4 /1996



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

May 23, 1996

The Honorable James Talent
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Talent:

This is in response to your March 19, 1996, letter concerning the costs associated with the cleanup options being considered for the St. Louis Site that would specifically affect the Hazelwood, Missouri, area.

The St. Louis Site consists of the following sites (for which a single decision document will be published to guide cleanup): the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site, the St. Louis Airport Site, the St. Louis Airport Vicinity Properties, and the St. Louis Downtown Site. The total estimate of material that must be addressed by the cleanup remedy is approximately 900,000 cubic yards. The Department of Energy, along with the Missouri Natural Department of Resources and Environmental Protection Agency Region VII, is working with the St. Louis Citizens Task Force (made up of local elected officials, local citizens, and property owners) to study different cleanup alternatives. The Task Force is planning to recommend an alternative to the Department by September 24, 1996.

The Task Force has asked the Department for cost estimates of various types of work as they define disposal alternatives. These alternatives include on-site and off-site disposal options. The on-site disposal options cover a wide range depending upon how much soil is excavated and the design of the disposal cell. The design of a disposal cell in the St. Louis area will be different than other commercial cells under consideration in the Western U.S. due to water table considerations. These factors will affect cost, as will differences in transportation costs, the disposal company's profit and overhead rates, the contingency applied to cover cost increases outside the company's control (such as increased State or local taxes), and the extended schedule for commercial disposal.

06/25/96 07:05

OAK RIDGE-FSRD

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06/21/96 FRI 10:08 FAX 1 202 586 7757

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04/04/96 THU 11:59 FAX 202 886 8823

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2502

March 19, 1996

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The Honorable Hazel R. O'Leary
Secretary of Energy
1000 Independence Ave SE Rm 7a-257
Washington, D.C. 20003-3900

Dear Madame Secretary:

I am writing to you about the Hazelwood, Missouri, low-level waste site. As you know, the Department is currently considering clean up options for this site.

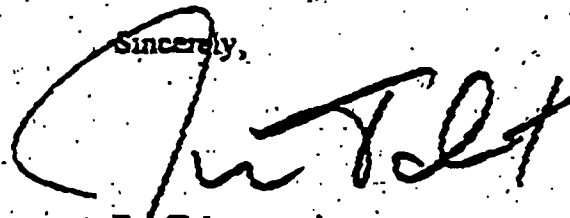
I understand that the Department's estimates for complete excavation and storage on an on-site cell are in the neighborhood of \$400 million while your estimate for the commercial option are nearly double that, or \$800 million.

Logic would dictate that a storage cell—on-site or off-site—can be built for a relatively comparable price. The only difference in price would be the transportation costs associated with moving the waste to the off-site cell. Given that transportation costs would be approximately \$60 to \$70 million, I am at a loss to understand the disparity of the Department's numbers.

I am anxious that the Department give commercial off-site options its due consideration. Therefore, I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss the Department's number disparity in depth.

Your prompt consideration of this request would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,



Jim Talent
Member of Congress

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Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

for the St. Louis Site, Missouri



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