



The Under Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

September 23, 1996

The Honorable William Clay
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Clay:

I agree with your August 29, 1996, letter that we are on the verge of resolving the 50-year Cold War legacy in the St. Louis area, and that seizing this opportunity to continue progress toward a workable agreement on a cleanup plan is important. Thanks to the hard work of the St. Louis Remediation Task Force, which has served as a forum for community dialogue, I am confident that we can soon begin a large-scale cleanup to protect public health and the environment at these sites.

First, to respond to your specific recommendations, I will meet with the Task Force when it is mutually convenient. I agree that this will provide a vital opportunity to receive and discuss the Task Force's final report.

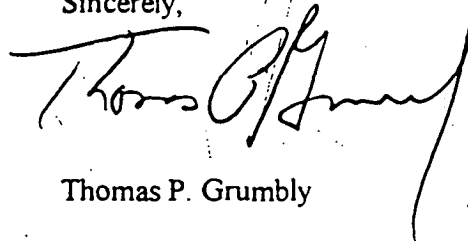
Second, we intend to do everything possible to control costs so that a maximum amount of funding goes to actual on-the-ground cleanup, and a minimum to overhead and management costs. We will examine which steps should be taken to ensure that cleanup project managers are where they can be accessible to the community on a daily basis.

I would like to respond to your concerns regarding the Task Force's impact on the Department's decisions. We take the Task Force recommendations seriously. I put this effort in motion two years ago to develop acceptable and achievable goals that are protective of the community.

Finally, as we develop a long-term cleanup plan, we will not wait to begin taking action. We intend to continue to take immediate action on the highest priorities to protect human health and the environment, such as ensuring that there is no radiation from the St. Louis Airport site. To meet this commitment, we intend to significantly increase the fiscal year 1997 cleanup funding beyond the \$15 million previously earmarked for these sites. I should note that our commitment to provide adequate funding for these critical St. Louis cleanup projects is difficult to maintain because of the congressional budget cuts in the fiscal year 1996 and fiscal year 1997 of \$73 million and \$59 million in the environmental cleanup account from which these sites are funded.

If you have further questions, please contact me or have a member of your staff contact Mr. Dirk Forrister, Assistant Secretary for Congressional, Public, and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5506.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas P. Grumbly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Thomas P. Grumbly



The Under Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

September 23, 1996

The Honorable Richard A. Gephardt
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gephardt:

I agree with your August 29, 1996, letter that we are on the verge of resolving the 50-year Cold War legacy in the St. Louis area, and that seizing this opportunity to continue progress toward a workable agreement on a cleanup plan is important. Thanks to the hard work of the St. Louis Remediation Task Force, which has served as a forum for community dialogue, I am confident that we can soon begin a large-scale cleanup to protect public health and the environment at these sites.

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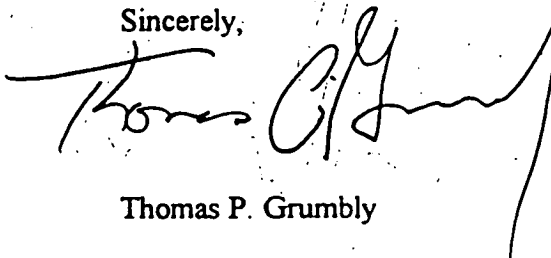
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I would like to respond to your concerns regarding the Task Force's impact on the Department's decisions. We take the Task Force recommendations seriously. I put this effort in motion two years ago to develop acceptable and achievable goals that are protective of the community.

Finally, as we develop a long-term cleanup plan, we will not wait to begin taking action. We intend to continue to take immediate action on the highest priorities to fully protect human health and the environment, such as ensuring that there is no migration from the St. Louis Airport site. To meet this commitment, we intend to significantly increase the fiscal year 1997 cleanup funding beyond the \$15 million initially earmarked for these sites. I should note that our commitment to provide adequate funding for these critical St. Louis cleanup projects is difficult to maintain because of the congressional budget cuts in the fiscal year 1996 and fiscal year 1997 of \$73 million and \$59 million in the environmental cleanup budget account from which these sites are funded.

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Thomas P. Grumbly

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Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

for the St. Louis Site, Missouri



U.S. Department of Energy