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November 20, 1996

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Mr. Thomas Grumbly
Under Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Grumbly:

We appreciate your very helpful response to our earlier concerns about the St. Louis area FUSRAP sites. We understand that you plan to attend a meeting next month with the St. Louis stakeholders and suggest you address the following priority issues:

- 1) **St. Louis Site Office.** The establishment of an on-site DOE office and full-time cleanup manager has long been needed in St. Louis and should be established as soon as possible to help with more effective planning before remediation begins.
- 2) **Defense/Non-Defense Funding Inequity.** The Department's allocation of defense and non-defense funding among cleanup sites needs to be reconsidered. The St. Louis sites are examples of sites that were contaminated from nuclear weapons activities, but receive cleanup funding only from non-defense accounts. In addition to being inappropriate, this funding source imposes severe limitations because it comprises less than ten percent of the overall Environmental Management Account. We believe the funding source for the St. Louis sites should extend to the defense account so that cleanup is not artificially constrained by competition for pieces of a smaller budget pie.

The present defense/non-defense budget split jeopardizes public safety in the St. Louis community. While sites in other communities experience ongoing cleanup programs to prevent the spread of contamination, in St. Louis contamination has spread to more than 100 adjacent properties. The federal government must equitably administer funds to remediate nuclear waste contamination and protect human health and the environment. We ask that the President's budget for DOE programs and the DOE's ten-year plan reflect a more evenhanded distribution of budget monies by increasing the non-defense share for nuclear waste cleanup projects.

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Mr. Grumbly
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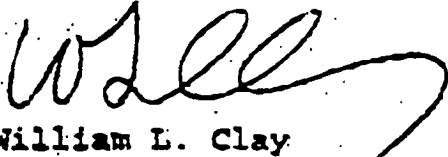
3) **Contract Reform.** Under the current national contract for FUSRAP the St. Louis site manager is not located on site. This arrangement has hindered cost-effective management of the cleanup. There have been serious problems resulting from the spread of contaminated waste and failure to control public and worker access to contaminated areas. Moreover, the situation has not provided adequate accountability to ensure that the funds are spent cost-effectively.

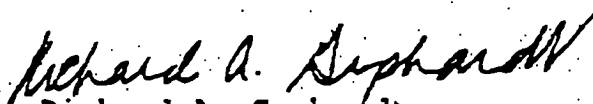
We strongly support the goals of DOE's contractor reform and believe the St. Louis FUSRAP sites are prime candidates for this initiative. In particular, performance-based contracts and improved accountability are long overdue in the FUSRAP program. It may be preferable to complete the St. Louis site as a separate contract.

4) **Site Specific Advisory Board.** The St. Louis Task Force has been very effective in achieving a consensus among community leaders. Maintaining this public participation is very important. A St. Louis Site Board should be established. We ask that DOE advisors be assigned to guide the initial formation of this Board.

Thank you for your efforts to improve the St. Louis FUSRAP remediation program. We appreciate your attention to the issues we have outlined and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


William L. Clay
Member of Congress


Richard A. Gephardt
Member of Congress

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Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

for the St. Louis Site, Missouri



U.S. Department of Energy

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