



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ST. LOUIS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
8945 LATTY AVENUE
BERKELEY, MISSOURI 63134

22 April 2003

CEMVS-PM-R

Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program

SUBJECT: Response to MDNR Letter dated March 21, 2003 Concerning Elevated Uranium Levels Found in One Decommissioned Monitoring Well (MW-33) at the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS)

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
FUSRAP Field Office (ATTN: Ms. Jill Groboski)
917 N. Highway 67, Suite 104
Florissant, MO 63031

Dear Ms. Groboski:

The purpose of this letter is to provide a response to your letter to the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) dated March 21, 2003, subject as stated above. The presence of elevated levels of Total Uranium in well MW-33 was expected by FUSRAP based upon historical contaminant location and previous sampling events. MW-33 was a shallow well that monitored the uppermost Hydrostratigraphic Zone A (HZ-A) of groundwater at the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS). MW-33, which was decommissioned in Fiscal Year 2002 to facilitate ongoing removal actions at the SLAPS, was located on the northwestern portion of the site adjacent to McDonnell Boulevard. The well location was downgradient of the most highly contaminated portion of SLAPS, the Radium Pits, the last portion of which was remediated in November of Fiscal Year 2003. Currently, removal activities are ongoing at SLAPS in the area between the Radium Pits and McDonnell Boulevard.

The MDNR raised several questions in the subject letter. With regard to the steps being taken by USACE to monitor the levels of uranium during and after removal actions, the current process is defined in the "*Environmental Monitoring Implementation For the St. Louis Sites For FY03*" and consists of sampling SLAPS wells for uranium, as well as other constituents, in accordance with this documents stated objectives. The SLAPS well samples are taken in accordance with this plan, the results consolidated and published annually to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region VII. To address the issue of installation of new wells in previously remediated areas the USACE has, and will continue to, selectively place new monitoring wells in areas which have been remediated to monitor the effectiveness of the removal / remedial actions. Two such wells have been placed at SLAPS - one in the East End and the other in the Radium Pits area. The sampling intervals and parameters for these wells will be evaluated based upon sampling results. Finally, other SLAPS wells are used to monitor levels of uranium during removal actions.

CC: Letner, Dell'Ore, Maffingly,
Schwartz, Hempen, Mueller,
Frederick

The wells used to assess the effectiveness of the removal action are two types, wells installed in the remediated area and those that are downgradient of the remediated area. These data from these wells are used to determine if the removal of the source material reduces the contaminant concentrations in the wells and to make a determination if the contamination is migrating horizontally or vertically through the HZ's. Per the MDNR suggestion, this topic will be added to the agenda for the upcoming Groundwater Technical Working Group Meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Lou Dell'Orco of my staff at (314) 260-3932.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sharon R. Cotner".

Sharon R. Cotner
FUSRAP Program Manager

CF: Mr. Dan Wall, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mr. Peter Price, Geological Survey and Resource Assessment Division

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Response to MDNR Letter dated 3/21/03 Concerning Elevated Uranium Levels Found in One Decommissioned Monitoring Well (MW-33) at SLAPS

Author/Originator
Sharon Cotner

Company
CEMVS-PM-R

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4/22/2003

Recipient (s)
Jill Groboski

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