

MARYVILLE UNIVERSITY

SAINT LOUIS

13550 Conway Road
St. Louis, MO 63141

Phone: 314 529-9300
Fax #: 314 542-9085

December 15, 1998

Ms. Sharon Cotner
FUSRAP Program Manager
9170 Latty Ave.
Berkeley, Missouri 63134

Thank you for the opportunity of examining the FUSRAP - St. Louis Sites - Community Relations Plan (Revision 1) dated November 1998. I have read over the document and would like to have my comments considered for the record. My concerns about your plan focus mainly on the Downtown Site because my family and I live in the vicinity of that location.

When I discussed the community issues with you in September, I believed that the Army Corps of Engineers had a high degree of credibility in the community in contrast to federal political bureaucracies, which often lack resolve and persistence in solving difficult problems. My assessment has changed with the recent revelation that the Corps has been careless in the burning of contaminated soils in St. Charles County. The release of radioactive material, I feel, has damaged the level of trust of the Corps in the community. I ask why would the people who know so much about both real and perceived dangers could be so careless? Did they think that no one cares, or that no one would find out that they released radioactive material into the air?

This recent negligence by the Corps in its soil incineration project in St. Charles County and the resultant damage of trust in the Corps' actions makes the current Community Relations Plan for the SLDS so much more important. The public wants and needs to know that the Downtown Site will be cleaned up and that there will be adequate supervision of every step of that operation so that the contractors do not skimp on their mandated protocols in the interest in maximizing their profits.

The current Community Relations document is vague and could be more specific with a timetable for public information about the stages and phases of the clean-up operations. I was disappointed with the meager account of the public meeting held at the Henry Clay School on April 21, 1998.

I was present and spoke at that meeting. The hearing was poorly publicized, poorly attended, and received no media attention. There was no real effort made by the Corps to make the community aware that an important session was to take place. Purchasing a classified advertisement in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and haphazardly placing a few

notices on fences the day before the April 21st meeting were not actions aimed at enlisting any significant public participation.

I agree with the statement in the current Corps plan on page 5-7, point 5.2, "On the contrary, conversations with community members revealed that many stakeholders are wary of blindly allowing the government to handle cleanup activities without stakeholder input and closely monitoring the progress of site cleanup." This indicates to me that people want to know about and follow your cleanup work to be assured that the job is on target with respect to public safety, timeliness, and cost.

There have been recent mistakes made by the Corps with respect to both cleanup procedures and public information. This should not be allowed to happen again. Please add details to your current Community Relations document to specify when and how the public will be informed of your plans and actions in meaningful ways.

Sincerely,



Tom Bratkowski, Ph.D.
Professor of Biology
Phone: 314-529-9570
FAX: 529-9965
Brat@maryville.edu

Timeline will appear in the newsletter

Cataloging Form
{Technical/Project Managers fill in C through G, K through Q. RM completes other fields}

A. Document ID Number: Assigned by database 00-414

B. Further Information Required?: ☐

C. Operable Unit (Choose One):

USACE ☐
St. Louis Sites ☒
Downtown ☐
North County ☐
Madison Sites ☐
Inaccessible Areas ☐
PRP ☐
Oversight Committee ☐

D. Site (Optional):

SLDS VPs ☐
Mallinckrodt ☐
SLAPS ☐
SLAPS VPs ☐
CWC ☐
HISS ☐
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Site Management Records ☐
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Feasibility Study ☐
Record of Decision ☐
Remedial Design ☐

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G. Secondary Document Type (see back of form):

Comments Received

H. Bechtel Number: _____

I. SAIC Number: _____

J. MARKS Number (Choose One): FN: 1110-1-8100e ☐

FN: 1110-1-8100f ☐

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K. Subject/Title: _____

L. Author: Jan Bratkowski

M. Author's Company: _____

N. Recipient(s): Sharon Carter

O. Recipient(s) Company: Pm-R

P. Version (Choose One): Draft ☐

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Q. Date: Dec. 15, 1998

R. Include in the ARF? ☒

S. Include in the AR? ☐

T. Filed as Confidential/Privileged? ☐

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