

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 12, 2001

Ms. Claudia L. Tornblom
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Management and Budget)
Pentagon, Room 2E570
Washington D.C., 20310-0102

Dear Ms. Tornblom:

We write to express our concern with President Bush's proposed cut in funding for the FUSRAP in the St. Louis Region for fiscal year 2002. This cut, if enacted, would not allow the Corps of Engineers to maintain successful and efficient clean-up efforts at the various radioactive sites across this region.

The St. Louis Region has several major FUSRAP sites which contain nuclear waste left over from the Manhattan Project and other sources. Most of these radioactive waste sites are primarily in urban and suburban communities around the region, and are either on or near residential and commercial properties. Sufficient funding is needed to effectively clean up these sites to the desired levels promised by the Corps of Engineers.

The St. Louis sites constitute almost 50 percent (600,000 cubic yards) of the total volume of FUSRAP waste across the country. Under the President's request, the amount allocated for the St. Louis sites will be \$2.5 million below last year's levels. This amount will not be sufficient for the Corps to effectively remediate these sites to the levels of previous years. Furthermore, work on the St. Louis sites will be downsized, and there will be a reduction in efficiencies below the fiscal year 2000 and 2001 levels.

Since the transfer of the FUSRAP Program from the Department of Energy (DOE) to the Corps of Engineers in the fiscal year 1998 *Energy and Water Appropriations* bill, the Corps has made significant progress in cleaning up the St. Louis sites to levels that are satisfactory to all the local stakeholders. Over the years, the St. Louis District Corps' project management team has consistently demonstrated the ability to efficiently expend all of its congressional appropriations plus some additional funds reprogrammed by Corps Headquarters. Because of this, the St. Louis FUSRAP Project is recognized as one of the best-managed projects in the nation. Currently, the Corps' project management team for these sites is under consideration for the Secretary of Defense's Productivity and Excellence Award.

In closing, the communities around the St. Louis Sites have struggled for over 30 years to get the federal government to clean up this nuclear waste. Failure to sufficiently fund the St. Louis FUSRAP Program at this time would significantly jeopardize the Corps' ability to keep its commitments and clean up these sites in a timely manner. These communities deserve to have their quality of life restored, and they should be made whole as promptly as possible.

We thank you for your time on this matter, and we look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,

W. Todd Akin

W. Todd Akin
Member of Congress

Christopher "Kit" Bond

Christopher "Kit" Bond
U.S. Senator

Richard Gephardt

Richard Gephardt
Member of Congress

Jean Carnahan

Jean Carnahan
U.S. Senator

Wm. Lacy Clay

Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Harry Reid, Senate Energy & Water Subcommittee
The Honorable Pete Domenici, Senate Energy & Water Subcommittee
The Honorable Sonny Callahan, Chairman, House Energy & Water Subcommittee
The Honorable Pete Visclosky, Ranking Member, House Energy & Water Subcommittee

FUSRAP Document Management System

Year ID

00 2620

Further Info?

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Operating Unit

St. Louis Sites

Site

Area

MARKS Number

FN:1110-1-8100g

Primary Document Type

Congressional Relations

Secondary Document Type

Correspondence

Subject or Title

Congressional Representative Request to the Energy and Water Senate Subcommittee on Appropriations to Increase Funding of FUSRAP Over and Above President Bush's Proposed Budget for the Program

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Congressional Represent

Date

6/12/01

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Version

Final

Original's Location

Central Files

Document Format

Paper

Confidential File?

☐

Comments

Include in which AR?

☐

ETL

9.1

SAIC number

Filed in Volume

9

Bechtel ID

