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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, BC 20515-2502

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I spoke of Tom ans/14

Colonel Thomas Hodgini
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Street Louis District
1222 Spruce Street
Saint Louis, Missouri 63103

Dear Col. Hodgini:

I am writing to you regarding a couple of matters that have become of serious concern to me. The matters to which I am referring involve allegations related to the Corps of Engineers cleanup of the St. Louis Airport Site under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). These allegations were brought to the attention of a local activist by a worker involved in the cleanup at the site. The activist, in turn, brought them to the attention of all the local stakeholders, including officials from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).

The first allegation that the worker describes is that contaminated surface water and ground-water is being released directly into Cold Water Creek without the proper treatment or testing for radioactive contamination. The second allegation is in regard to worker safety at the site. The worker also expressed concerns about the fact that most of the workers at the site are not being required to wear respirators or even paper masks in spite of the fact that the site is often extremely windy and dusty. There is some concern that these workers might be ingesting materials containing radioactive particles.

Initially, officials from the Corps of Engineers responded to the accusation regarding the release of ground-water by indicating that there was nothing to be concerned about from the standpoint of protection of human health, and that all water discharged off this site into Coldwater Creek was in compliance with the Corps's existing permit with the state of Missouri. However, in its response to the activist's inquiry, MDNR claims that the Corps not only has no state permit, but they are also not in compliance with the state's current standards on water pollution control.

Colonel, in light of these allegations and the discrepancies between MDNR and the Corps on the release of groundwater into Coldwater creek, I urge you to conduct an investigation into these claims with the onsite involvement of MDNR officials. This is the only way to ensure that the cleanup is being conducted safely and in compliance with the applicable state standards.

Page 2 05/14/99

Thank you for your cooperation on this matter, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Jim Talent

Member of Congress

JT/th

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