

P.O. 80X 579 ASHTABULA, OHIO 44005-0579 440/992-7442 FAX 440/993-1995

RMI-BD: 98-136

May 7, 1998

Dr. Rob Mullins, Jr. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Louis District 9170 Latty Avenue St. Louis, MO 63134

Subject: Proposed Plan for the St. Louis Downtown Site

Dear Dr. Mullins:

RMI Environmental Services (RMIES) is a remediation company offering expertise and specialized technologies geared to individual site requirements. We are currently the prime contractor to the Department of Energy (DOE) for Remediation of a uranium extrusion plant in Ashtabula, Ohio. RMIES is also part of a joint venture team which demonstrated an effective soil treatment pilot plant at the Ashtabula site. Soil decontamination in the pilot scale plant was proven to be both fiscally and technically effective, and this success led the DOE to change the baseline remediation approach to include soil treatment. The change to soil treatment and the extraction of uranium from the soil is expected to provide a \$20 million savings over standard soil transportation and disposal at Envirocare. A production scale soil treatment plant is under construction, and will begin operation this fall.

This letter provides our comment on the subject plan, as follows:

The Feasibility Study for the St. Louis Downtown Site states that soil treatment may be a viable alternative for the downtown site (page 3-31). Soil treatment removes contamination from the soil, substantially reduces the quantity of soil shipped for off site disposal, and offers corresponding reductions in environmental impact and project costs. These potential benefits warrant an amendment to the Proposed Plan for the St. Louis Downtown Site so that it will specifically call for the performance of a volume reduction via soil treatability study necessary to select and design an effective soil treatment process.

Respectfully submitted,

N. F. Brewer Director, Business Development

NFB/ram