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Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

for Maywood, New Jersey



U.S. Department of Energy

132564
95.393

Department of Energy

Oak Ridge Operations
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831— 8723
July 25, 1995

The Honorable Bill Bradley
One Newark Center
Newark, New Jersey 07102-5297

Attention: Edmund M. De Veaux

Dear Senator Bradley:

MAYWOOD SITE - RESPONSE TO LETTER FROM MS. KELLY KRENN

This is in response to your request regarding a letter you received from Ms. Kelly Krenn, a resident of Maywood, New Jersey. In her letter to you, Ms. Krenn expressed concerns that the soil storage pile at the Maywood Interim Storage Site could pose a health risk to area residents and that the pile should be removed.

Ms. Krenn's concerns are certainly understandable; the materials we work with and the things we do in the Maywood area are not very familiar to most people. That is why we at the Department of Energy (DOE) are striving to do a better job of explaining our work and what it involves. Mere mention of the word "radioactivity" alarms many people despite the fact that they are exposed to radiation everyday through numerous products and naturally occurring materials. Ms. Krenn indicated in her letter that the residents of Maywood should know more about the true nature of the risks associated with the site. She is absolutely right. I hope that the following information is helpful in clarifying the true nature of the soils in Maywood that DOE is responsible for cleaning up.

DOE has an extensive program in place to monitor the air, water and soil throughout the Maywood site area. The program measures radioactive products such as thorium, uranium and radon gas, and for other things such as metals and chemicals. Monitoring is continual at many locations throughout the tri-borough area using groundwater wells, soil and surface water sampling, devices to detect gamma rays (similar to x-rays), and devices that constantly test the air.

We recently completed analyzing and compiling data collected during 1994. The results are generally the same as we've seen year after year. As expected, the data indicate that average concentrations of radioactive contaminants of concern are well below the applicable standards and guidelines. Drinking water and food products from the area are not being affected by the Maywood Interim Storage Site or by residual contamination at residential and commercial properties in the area.

Honorable Bill Bradley

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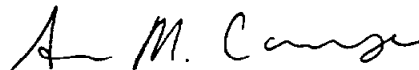
The possibility of site-related radiation exposures to people who live in the Maywood area is calculated in the most conservative fashion using worst-case-scenario assumptions. Still, our results show that even if a person lived in the riskiest way possible with respect to the storage site, which no area resident does, his exposure would be barely above that caused by naturally occurring radiation from the sun, the earth, commercial products, x-rays, and so on.

At this time, there is no indication that people living or working near the storage site are at an increased risk for cancer. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry is now compiling data on cancer incidence in the Maywood area in comparison to other areas of northern New Jersey. I understand that the study will be released to the public sometime within the next few months.

Lastly, Ms. Krenn pointed out a need to remove the soil storage pile from Maywood. As you may know, we are in the process of doing just that. Since last fall we have removed almost half of the storage pile and have shipped it out of state for permanent disposal. We hope to have the rest of the pile shipped for disposal by the end of 1996 if our annual funding for the work is realized. Also, we begin this fall with more cleanups of residential properties in the area.

If you would like further information about the Maywood Site and DOE's work in that community please feel free to call me. My number in Tennessee is (615) 576-5724.

Sincerely,



Susan Cange, Site Manager
Former Sites Restoration Division