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Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

for Maywood, New Jersey



U.S. Department of Energy



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Department of Energy

Oak Ridge Operations
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831-8723

September 22, 1995

Mr. Gary Rice
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Green Trust Management
Green Acres Program
CN-412
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0412

Dear Mr. Rice:

MAYWOOD SITE - JOHN F. KENNEDY PARK, LODI, NEW JERSEY

Meeting with you on August 29 was certainly a pleasure. I wanted to follow up with this letter to outline the Department of Energy's (DOE) activities at John F. Kennedy Park in Lodi, N.J.

As you know, the borough of Lodi is working to regrade and landscape the park, which is one of the properties designated for remedial action in DOE's first phase of cleanups at the Maywood site.

Recently, there has been media coverage of the work regarding what role DOE has played during the borough's planning, whether the renovation work is safe from a radiological standpoint, whether the work should be performed in light of a future DOE cleanup, and how safe the park is for recreational use.

JFK Park is essentially no different than any other park intended for recreational use. It is safe today, just as it has been in the past, and just as are the many residential properties that are designated for cleanup under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program. In order for the soil at the property to pose a heightened health risk from a radiological perspective, a person would actually have to eat a substantial amount of it. Playing at the park, walking, sitting, picnicking and any other normal recreational activity will not endanger a person's health from the standpoint of a radioactive dose.

From the time that the borough began planning the park upgrades early in 1995, DOE has cooperated through several meetings, letters and phone conversations. The borough and its contractors have been great to work with, and their genuine concern that the job be done correctly and in the best interest of the public's welfare has been prevalent throughout.

Mr. Gary Rice

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Early in the process, DOE representatives met with borough contractors and representatives to share information about exactly where DOE's planned cleanup will be necessary (which involves a narrow strip of the park property that borders Money Street), to discuss prudent work routines in that small area to assure that no thorium-containing soil is removed, and to offer assistance during the renovation. Soon after, DOE sent workers to the park to survey and physically stake out the areas where our cleanup will take place. We then provided a health physics technician to take radiological measurements on any soil that the landscape contractors had to dig up to make sure that none of it contained radiation above naturally occurring levels. As we discussed, soils above cleanup guidelines were not encountered in any areas outside of those already identified for cleanup. Also, during renovations clean soils were placed on top of the small area of contaminated soils, thereby reducing potential exposures and making it more difficult to come into contact with them.

Concerning the questions about renovating the park in light of DOE's plans to perform remedial action on the property, allow me to touch on what would follow our remedial work.

After cleanup but prior to restoration, the park property would be verified "radiologically clean" by an independent verification contractor. As with all of the properties in our Phase I cleanup, DOE will restore excavated areas of the park to the condition they were in prior to our work-start at the property to the extent possible. That is, if the park is renovated now and DOE cleans up a section of it later, we will restore it to its pre-cleanup condition, including regrading the area and replacing the sod, trees, and other vegetation affected by the cleanup. Therefore, a renovation by the borough now would not be for naught.

Phase I remedial action at the Maywood site vicinity properties begins this fall and will involve 37 properties. Of these properties, 31 are residential. The remainder includes three municipal parks, a fire station, an undeveloped tract, and a highway right-of-way.

Cleanup of the park will probably take place in three to four years, after private residences in Phase I are complete. In the meantime, just as in the past, the park is perfectly safe from a radiological standpoint.

Again, it was a pleasure to meet with you. I hope this information is helpful and complete for your needs. If you have further questions, please contact me at (423) 576-5724.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Cange, Site Manager
Former Sites Restoration Division