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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 Office
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831—8723

May 15, 1996

Ms. Angela Carpenter
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region II
290 Broadway, 18th Floor
New York, New York 10007-1866

Dear Ms. Carpenter:

MAYWOOD SITE - GROUNDWATER EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The attached report summarizes DOE's current interpretation of groundwater data for the Maywood Interim Storage Site (MISS) and surrounding areas. The previous conclusions concerning groundwater contamination at MISS have not changed significantly since groundwater was initially evaluated in 1993. Data obtained over the past three years support the previous conclusions as outlined below.

The distribution and migration of contaminants in groundwater at MISS can be explained by a relatively simple conceptual model. Contaminants that have low mobility in groundwater (arsenic, chromium, and lead that occur above MCLs) have remained close to the sources of contamination. Those chemicals that are relatively mobile (lithium, boron, and VOCs) are suspected of migrating away from the sources as plumes in the bedrock groundwater. The extent of the PCE plume downgradient from MISS and Ballod has not been defined. The conceptual model for migration of VOCs suggests that a likely ultimate fate of PCE in bedrock groundwater is to be discharged into Westerly Brook or the Saddle River.

Radionuclides (uranium isotopes) have only been detected sporadically in one well on the DeSaussure property and do not exceed the current or proposed MCLs (5pCi/L-current standard for Ra₂₂₆ and 20ug/L-proposed standard for natural uranium). Radionuclides do not appear to contribute to the groundwater contamination at MISS and are, therefore, minimally addressed in the groundwater evaluation.

As part of the evaluation and recommendations, a downgradient groundwater characterization effort is proposed that consists of two components: 1) an initial screening investigation using rapid and cost effective field techniques and 2) installation of a limited number of bedrock monitoring wells. Bedrock wells will be used to fully characterize contaminant plume geochemistry and to confirm the results of screening sampling. The rationale for sampling is based on the assumption that downgradient of MISS and Ballod, groundwater in bedrock is

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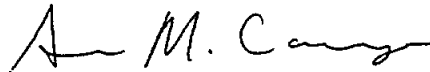
discharging to shallow groundwater and the presence of VOC contamination in bedrock groundwater can be anticipated by the extent of VOC contamination in shallow groundwater.

If you agree with our proposed characterization efforts then we will finalize our plans and begin obtaining access agreements. The schedule to complete our investigation will be somewhat driven by our ability to obtain access, but we will make every effort to complete the task as soon as possible.

As we have discussed previously, DOE will be preparing an addendum to the Maywood Feasibility Study. This addendum will be submitted to EPA for review and approval before issuing a Proposed Plan, for site remediation, for public comment. If feasible, the results of the proposed groundwater characterization efforts will be used in the development and evaluation of alternatives which will be included in this addendum.

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss the attached evaluation and our proposed plans to further characterize the groundwater, please call me at (423) 576-5724.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Cange, Site Manager
Former Sites Restoration Division

enclosure

cc: Nick Marton, NJDEP