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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Department of Public Health

600 Washington Street

Boston 02111

Room 770

Tel: (617) 727-2660

Alfred L. Frechette, M.D.

COMMISSIONER

October 15, 1979

Dr. William Mott
DOE
Environmental Control Division
Mail Stop E201
Washington, D.C. 20545

Re: Uranium in the Woburn Dump

Dear Dr. Mott:

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has been informed that uranium ore was disposed of in a dump site in Woburn, Massachusetts sometime in 1960.

The National Lead Company, was under contract with a federal agency to assay uranium ore at their laboratory located in Winchester, Massachusetts. At the close of the contract some fifty 55 gallon drums of low grade ore were disposed of in the dump site in Woburn by burial. The ore was said to contain approximately the same amount of radioactivity as the granite in the area. The dump was closed sometime later and covered over with earth.

Several years later the site was developed as an industrial park with several companies now located on the site. The excavated material was dumped in the new Woburn dump located a few miles away.

The Department of Public Health requests that your agency assist in determining whether any health hazard to the general public exists as a result of this situation.

Your early response to this request will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

GERALD S. PARKER, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner

GSP/lap

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Woburn Dumpsite, Woburn, Massachusetts

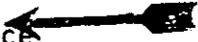
M. R. Bibb, OR

In response to E. L. Keller's letter of October 15, 1979, the issuance of the report on the Winchester Analytical Laboratory has been delayed due to lack of definitive survey information (see our memorandum to E. L. Keller dated September 11, 1979). This office, in conjunction with ORNL, has visited the city of Woburn, Massachusetts' landfill.

The survey conducted by both the ORNL representative, W. R. Cottrell, and by George Swible of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, indicated no radioactivity above the average area background (~3500c/m). The results of the soil samples are not in yet, but it is expected that they will verify the portable instrument results.


William E. Mott, Director
Environmental Control
Technology Division

Attachment

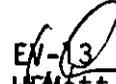
bcc: Aerospace 
WEMott, ECT

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AJWhitman 

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