

**Department of Energy**

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

September 24, 1990

Dr. Paul Merges
Director, Bureau of Radiation
New York State Department of Environmental
Conservation
50 Wolfe Road
Albany, NY 12233-7255

Dear Dr. Merges:

DESIGNATION OF THE FORMER BAKER AND WILLIAMS WAREHOUSES INTO DOE'S FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that on August 9, 1990, the site of the former Baker and Williams warehouses, currently owned by Ralph Ferrara, Inc., located on West 20th Street in New York City, was designated into the Department of Energy's (DOE) Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). This designation was based on results of a radiological survey performed by Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU), an independent contractor to DOE. A Designation Summary (Enclosure 1) and other supplemental information is provided with this letter.

Historical information indicates that this site, which consists of three adjacent warehouses, was used by the Manhattan Engineer District (MED) for short-term storage of approximately 219,000 pounds of uranium concentrates. One of the three warehouses, at 521-527 West 20th Street, was found to contain residual radioactive contamination in excess of DOE guidelines on the basement level floor and lower walls, and on the first level floor.

Based on DOE's analysis of the site conditions, this site would normally have a low priority. All contamination was found to be fixed and radiation exposure limits were below the DOE guideline value. There is currently no significant risk to workers or members of the public from the residual contamination in the facility. However, the owner is planning an extensive renovation in the near future in areas found to be contaminated. This could result in the spread of contamination and renovation workers may receive doses approaching the dose limits. Thus, the site has been assigned a medium priority under the FUSRAP protocol.

Because the limited contamination is contained entirely inside the warehouse building, DOE is proposing to proceed with remedial action of the site using an Expedited Remediation Process (ERP) procedure, as described in Enclosure 2.

Dr. Paul Merges

2

The ERP approach has been developed by DOE for small site cleanup. The DOE protocol is in the process of development, however, the Baker and Williams warehouse is proposed as a trial site which will aid in the development of the protocol.

DOE envisions two goals to this effort: (1) the cleanup of the warehouse, and (2) the demonstration of the usefulness of the expedited process at small sites.

We are presently in the process of obtaining an access agreement with the owner of the site with hopes that remedial action activities will begin this calendar year.

Enclosure 3 provides copies of reference information on the Baker and Williams warehouse site for your information and files.

It is our hope that all interested parties can benefit from use of this expedited procedure with the cleanup of this small FUSRAP site. If you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to call me at (615) 576-1830.

Sincerely,



William M. Seay, Deputy Director
Technical Services Division

Enclosures

cc: W. A. Williams, GTN
C. R. Hickey, BNI