Department of Energy
Oak Ridge Operations
P. O. Box E
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

November 17, 1986

The Honorable Rodger W. Parker
St. Charles County Commission
118 No. Second Street
St. Charles, Missouri 63301

Dear Commissioner Parker:

I am writing in response to your letter which expressed concern about the safety of the EPA directed Characterization Program.

The Department of Energy (DOE) and the County Commission have the same basic goal and objective for the project; assuring the public health and safety of the citizens of St. Charles County by providing for appropriate long-term management of the Weldon Spring Site materials. Please be assured that any interim actions or investigative studies will be carried out in the safest manner possible.

As the DOE and its contractor begin initial cleanup and ultimate remedial action you have my personal commitment that only the best available technologies will be employed and the highest safety standards imposed. That includes not only worker safety but the safety of the citizens of St. Charles County, the environment, and the County well field. I share your concern that pressure for a rapid cleanup could compromise environmental safety. However, at no time will the Department allow personal or environmental safety standards to be compromised to maintain the project schedule.

As I have committed in the past, the DOE will keep the County informed of future plans, current status, and progress. In that regard, I or any members of my staff are available at your request to provide that information.

DOCUMENT NUMBER: _____

In order to complete this project in a safe and timely manner it is imperative that there be credibility, mutual trust, and respect among all agencies at the local, state, and federal level. Your continued interest in the project is to the benefit of the citizens of St. Charles County. If I can be of service at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

R. R. Nelson

R. R. Nelson
Project Manager
Weldon Spring Site
Remedial Action Project