GWOU ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD
SECTION TITLE:
GW-500-501-1.14

Karen/Yvonne

Mel Carnahan, Governor • Stephen M. Mahfood, Director

STATE OF MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

June 16, 1999

Steven McCracken, Project Manager
Department of Energy-WSSRAP
7295 Highway 94 South
St. Charles, MO 63304

RE: Public Outreach

Dear Mr. McCracken:

On May 6, 1999, Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) staff attended a comment review meeting for the Groundwater Operable Unit Supplemental Feasibility Study. During this meeting MDNR asked what plans the Department of Energy had for sharing information and communicating with the public the details of the Groundwater Operable Unit. To our surprise your staff responded that nothing other than the required public hearing was planned.

It is disconcerting that little additional effort is being taken to inform the public on this issue and afford them the maximum opportunity to understand and provide input into the last planned Record of Decision for the site. I am requesting that you reconsider the approach of using only a public hearing to present and discuss the information.

Past public outreach efforts for the Weldon Spring Site Remedial Action Project (WSSRAP), as well as many other sites, have proven worthwhile as evidenced by the general support from citizens commenting on previous Records of Decisions. Workshops and other community involvement tools were employed to provide ample opportunity for the community to learn about site conditions and future recommendations. The public was also given the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the issues in an informal setting. Through these discussions all parties generally gain a better understanding of the issues and develop a positive rapport with the agencies involved. Recently, however, informal workshops and availability sessions have not been scheduled for this site. I am sure that you and your staff want to say that you not only met the public involvement requirements of the superfund process, but went the extra step to offer additional opportunities for public input on these critical issues.

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A similar approach with regard to community involvement should also be considered to address the status of the Stewardship plan, Quarry Residuals Operable Unit, and general site remediation. We are very committed to supporting and participating in any type of workshop or availability session that the WSSRAP would schedule. As a suggestion, a session should be held well in advance of any "official" public meeting on the Groundwater Operable Unit. Invitations should also be sent to individual citizens whose private drinking water wells are near the site and are being monitored by the Missouri Department of Health. Further details on the meeting can be coordinated with Ms. Ramona Huckstep of my staff at (573/751-6796) or via email at nrhuckr@mail.dnr.state.mo.us.

I appreciate your consideration of these requests and suggestions. I look forward to assisting you regarding public involvement.

Sincerely,

HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM

Robert Geller

Robert Geller, Chief
Federal Facilities Section

RG:bde

c: Dan Wall, EPA VII
Weldon Spring Citizens Commission