Department of Energy
Oak Ridge Operations
Weldon Spring Site
Remedial Action Project Office
7295 Highway 94 South
St. Charles, Missouri 63304

December 26, 1991

Mr. Dennis Miller
St. Charles Journal
340 North Main Street
St. Charles, Missouri 63301

Dear Mr. Miller:

I would like to give you an update on the status of the Quarry Water Treatment Plant. As you may know, the treatment plant was scheduled to be operational by now, however, we have experienced some construction delays.

The installation of the interconnecting piping for the plant has not yet begun because we have not received and approved the piping drawings. We expect to approve the drawings within two weeks. The construction will then take five to six weeks to complete. A more significant problem has been failure of the pond liners to pass acceptance testing. Failure of some of the liner seams has prompted us to do a complete recheck of the liner system and make any repairs that are required. We are coordinating these repairs with the State and EPA.

Our first consideration is to assure that everything is constructed properly. We will not let our schedule concerns push us to do anything less. We now anticipate that the plant will be operational in the April time frame.

On a more positive note, we are still moving toward beginning removal of the waste from the quarry next summer. The relocation of a section of Highway 94 is complete; the waste haul road is essentially complete; construction of the water treatment plant and the waste storage area at the chemical plant site is underway (Note: there have been some delays due to the exceptionally wet weather this fall, but we are anticipating that these delays will be recovered.) A related requirement is relocation of an on-site water tower that belongs to St. Charles County. This work should be completed in the next few weeks.

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Before closing I want to shift gears some and briefly discuss a concern that I have. We have received a number of questions over the past few months questioning the safety of the water treatment plant. My concern is that the questions, if taken without benefit of the answers, could create a perception that the plant will not perform as required to protect the health of downstream users of Missouri River water. Such a perception would be unfortunate because we have responded to all of the questions and our answers reinforce the fact that the plant will not impact the health of anyone.

I have enclosed copies of most of the questions we have received and our responses to them. I encourage you to review this information and use it as a reference. I have also enclosed an informational bulletin about this important work. If I can provide you any additional information, please feel free to call or write. I will keep you posted as we get closer to the water treatment operation start-up.

Sincerely,

S H McCracken

Stephen H. McCracken
Project Manager
Weldon Spring Site
Remedial Action Project

Enclosures:
As stated