Department of Energy
Oak Ridge Operations
Weldon Spring Site
Remedial Action Project Office
Route 2, Highway 94 South
St. Charles, Missouri 63303

April 30, 1987

The Honorable Gerald Ohlms
St. Charles County Commission
118 No. Second Street
St. Charles, Missouri 63301

Dear Commissioner Ohlms:

This letter is to keep you informed as to the current activities on the Weldon Spring Site Remedial Action Project and to reaffirm my commitment to provide periodic information updates to the County.

We are proceeding with the scheduled chemical and radiological characterization. The best scientific expertise and latest technical instrumentation will be used during the characterization to identify and determine the amount and extent of chemical and radiological constituents present in the soil, groundwater, surface water and sediment. This information is required to determine the quantity of material, the location and the exact chemical and radiological constituents and concentrations so that we can determine compatibility with the cell construction materials and design.

Although this is a routine procedure which poses no risk to the public we will utilize several different monitoring devices during the characterization. Holes drilled will be monitored by sodium iodide detectors to estimate radium, thorium, and potassium concentration in each of the boreholes. Uranium and thorium-230 concentrations will be analyzed in the laboratory since these nuclides do not emit enough gamma radiation to allow in-situ determinations. In addition, above ground radiometric measurements will be conducted in all areas of the site to detect any levels of radioactivity near the surface. Continuous air monitors will routinely measure the air particulate levels in the actual area during drilling operations.

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Furthermore, monitors are measuring airborne particulates and radon on the perimeter of our entire site location as well as at Francis Howell High School and the Busch Wildlife Preserve. As I have committed to you before, the health and safety of the public remains, and will continue to remain the prime consideration of the Department of Energy.

On another matter, the Department of Energy, in response to our findings of 2,6,DNT in the groundwater on the northern perimeters of the site, has recently tested six of the nearest private wells. We do not expect to find any 2,6,DNT in those wells; however, as a precautionary measure, conducted the testing. The laboratory analysis should be complete the end of this week and we will make these results available to you.

I appreciate your leadership and cooperation and in particular your responsibility to the residents of St. Charles County. Should you have any further questions regarding this matter or any matter pertaining to the project, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,

R. R. Nelson

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