

Chemical Plant Groundwater Operable Unit Public Meeting
Question Submission Form

August 13, 2003

Weldon Spring Site, St. Charles, MO – Interpretive Center

You may use this form to submit questions or comments to be addressed during the Public Question and Comment Period of this meeting. Oral questions will also be accepted at that time. Please return completed forms to the question box by the meeting room entrance or submit to Wendy Drnec or Wendee Ryan.

See ATTACHED COMMENT of 8-13-03

Name (optional):

MICHAEL V. GARVEY

Written Comment for Public Meeting 8-13-03
Pam Thompson, Site Manager
DOE
Weldon Springs Remedial Action Project
7295 Hwy 94 South
St. Charles, MO. 63304

From: Dr. Michael V. Garvey
208 Pitman Hill Rd.
St. Charles, MO. 63304

RE; PUBLIC COMMENT FOR GROUNDWATER, SPRINGS PROPOSED
REMEDIAL ACTION OF AUG. 2003

8-13-03

Dear Pam. Thompson,

I appreciate all the excellent work of the DOE and it's subcontractors and the MoDNR over the years to greatly improve the local conditions, as they may impact the public health of local residents. The St. Charles residents are grateful, but still concerned with the long term potential for some unexpected loss of integrity of the disposal cell and the contaminated ground water and surface water left after the active remediation. Please keep me in the loop regarding the stewardship of the site and the results of the sampling of the springs, disposal cell and of course the St. Charles County Well Field as long as it is in use for a drinking water supply. Hopefully the St. Charles County Well Field source for drinking water will not be needed in the immediate future as alternate supplies exist now to feed PWD #2.

Below are my formal comments to be used regarding the proposed remediation of the groundwater and springs of the Site. My chief concern is found below in #1.

1. Because it has been fully documented that most of the contaminated shallow groundwater beneath the chemical plant area discharges to the surface in the vicinity of Burgermeister Spring and that according to the DOE no active remediation is reasonable closer to the chemical plant site; and that the surface water uranium concentrations in this spring is greater than the groundwater under the chemical plant: **the DOE should consider the feasibility of long term remediation of the surface water at that location.** Please address this request in writing in your final evaluation and recommendations. This contamination has for too many years been allowed to continue to degrade the St. Charles Counties surface waters and ground waters (ie Dardenne Creek and ponded waters ie. Lake 34 at Busch WLA).

2. As I mentioned too many years ago, long term storage should not have been placed at Weldon Springs, an area with groundwater contamination and a

complex hydrogeology, springs, highly fractured limestone with solution voids, enlarged fractures and karst features with **rapid** groundwater transport. Monitoring the long term integrity of the disposal cell will be more difficult due to the groundwater contamination under the cell in this heterogeneous, highly fractured groundwater medium, with poorly connected voids which may hold contamination. (What is the design and screened intervals of the new Cell Detection Monitoring Wells?)

3. The Institutional Controls Location map on page 14 Figure 4 seems artificially drawn to include only chemical plant and the two springs SP-6303 PR-6301, it is too small an area! (How was it determined that the wells at Twin Island Lakes were not degraded by the the DOE Site? What are the results of the sampling of the other Perennial Springs seen in Figure 3 page 6. Perhaps if the groundwater flow from the plant site is to the north, some of these spring surface water results to the southwest could be used to determine the spring water quality local background levels? Where can one find the Missouri Dept. of Health private drinking water well results?)
Public comment 8-13-03 Dr. Michael V. Garvey cont.

4. Will signage at the springs (6301 & 6303) and the southeast drainages be placed and maintained to warn the public not to drink the water? Should bottom feeding fish be digested from Lake 34 at Busch WLA without some information regarding the potential bioconcentrations? I recommend that at the least a catch and release policy should be in place at Lake 34,35,&36 at Busch WLA and the Upper and Lower Femme Osage Sloughs at the Weldon Springs WLA.

5. What if it takes over 100 years to achieve drinking water standards and if the MCL for Uranium is lowered in the meantime? How was it determined to be 100 years?

Sincerely,
Dr. Michael V. Garvey
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