



KAISER-HILL
COMPANY

May 6, 1998

98-RF-02427

Weapons Complex Monitor
Attn: Ed Helminski, Publisher
1826 Jefferson Place, N.W. Suite 100
Washington, D. C. 20036

CLARIFICATION ON WEAPONS COMPLEX MONITOR ARTICLE - DCS-014-98

In the April 6 WCM article titled "Rocky Flats Interest Group Charges Actinide Migration Panel with Bias," one of your key sources made several statements that require clarification.

First, contrary to LeRoy Moore's statements, Kaiser-Hill has carefully reviewed the work of soil scientist Iggy Litaor and, in fact, has hired a panel of scientists from across the nation to expand upon Dr. Litaor's work and perform an even more comprehensive and multifaceted study of the movement of actinides in the environment at Rocky Flats. Dr. Litaor provided some valuable data on the physical behavior of plutonium and we are using that data today, but his studies did not address other key questions, such as how the chemical form of plutonium affects its movement. This is not a simple question and the Site is committed to a multi-year project to go beyond the focus of Dr. Litaor's work.

Second, Mr. Moore questioned the objectivity of the panel of scientists, in particular the credibility of two scientists that work at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) under the auspices of the Department of Energy. Your readers should know that when Dr. Litaor did his studies on plutonium migration, he too worked at a DOE Site under a contract paid with DOE money. In fact, nearly every plutonium expert in this country has at one time or another performed work for the DOE. Both Dr. Janecky and Dr. Clark, the two scientists who work at LANL, are nationally and internationally recognized experts in their respective fields. They work for the University of California and serve as contractors to the DOE. It is also important to note that the technical work on actinide migration at Rocky Flats is only one component of the entire open process followed by Kaiser-Hill and DOE. In fact, all work plans and results have been shared with the public for review and comment and will continue to be shared in the future.

Third, Mr. Moore over-interpreted statements made by Dr. Bruce Honeyman at an August 1997 public meeting. Dr. Honeyman presented preliminary results that suggested a significant fraction of Rocky Flats soil plutonium is possibly associated with soil in the 'organic phase'. However, Dr. Honeyman indicated that the nature of the 'organic phase' is unclear and additional scientific analysis is necessary before any conclusions can be made. It is also ironic that our records indicate Mr. LeRoy Moore did not attend the August 1997 meeting, so it is difficult for us to understand the basis of his misinterpretation.

Kaiser-Hill Company, L.L.C.

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ADMIN RECORD

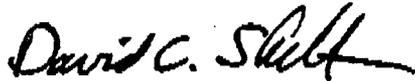
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Finally, we agree it is essential to learn the truth about actinide migration. That is why the Site has contracted with some of the world's leading scientists to help unravel the question of how actinides move in the Rocky Flats environment. The work under way today will improve our ability to develop the best possible approach for clean up.

Sincerely,



David C. Shelton
Director, Regulatory Strategy
Kaiser-Hill, L.L.C.

JC:mrd

cc:

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