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RESPONSE TO CITIZEN COMMENT

05/15/1989

DOE-1037-89
DOE-FMPC
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LETTER

CITIZEN



Department of Energy

FMPC Site Office
P.O. Box 398705
Cincinnati, Ohio 45239-8705
(513) 738-6319

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May 15, 1989
DOE-1037-89

Mr. Rufus Napier
Virginia Leist

Dear Mr. Napier and Ms. Leist:

Thank you for your interest in the environmental study underway at the Feed Materials Production Center. We appreciate your participation in the winter community meeting. We know it's been awhile since you inquired about testing human tissue for evidence of uranium.

When the FMPC began operating in 1951, this country was just learning how to handle hazardous materials and to protect the health of those who came in contact with these materials. Studies on animals and health safety models provided guidance for the safety procedures already in place, but there was a need to compare these findings with actual studies using human tissue.

There is a program called the Uranium Registry which is directed by the Hanford Environmental Health Foundation in Richland, Washington. The Uranium Registry is designed to increase the knowledge of the distribution and effects of uranium in occupationally-exposed workers who volunteer to participate by making current information available to the Registry and by agreeing to donate tissue for post mortem analyses.

Since its creation, the FMPC and other government facilities and private facilities have cooperated with the Uranium Registry to facilitate its research. Research programs of this type are an accepted method to provide essential medical data to help industry and government create safer work environments. If you wish more information about the uranium registry, you may contact:

U.S. Uranium Registry
P. O. Box 100
Richland, WA 99352

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We appreciate the opportunity to provide this information to you.
Our goal is to be responsive to your information needs.

Sincerely,


James A. Reafsyder
FMPC Site Manager

CC-10:Fowler