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CASH PAYMENT FOR DRINKING WATER

07/31/95

DOE-1303-95
DOE-FN CITIZEN
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LETTER



Department of Energy
Fernald Environmental Management Project
P. O. Box 398705
Cincinnati, Ohio 45239-8705
(513) 648-3155

JUL 31 1995
DOE-1303-95

Mrs. Joan Pottenger
[REDACTED]

CASH PAYMENT FOR DRINKING WATER

Dear Mrs. Pottenger:

Uranium is a naturally occurring element in soil and water. The level of concentration, or background level, varies widely from one location to another around the world. In our local area the background level for uranium is 1.0 to 2.7 micrograms per liter of water. Concentrations are also often expressed in terms of parts per billion (ppb). One ppb is equivalent to one microgram per liter.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is responsible for setting health standards for acceptable levels or concentrations of various elements or compounds, including uranium, in drinking water. The USEPA has a proposed standard of 20 ppb for uranium. This means the USEPA has determined that water with concentrations of uranium below 20 ppb is safe for human consumption. Our policy here at Fernald of offering bottled water to neighbors whose drinking water is consistently above background was developed prior to USEPA setting their proposed standard. Until the public water supply is available to you, we will continue to honor our commitment to provide you with bottled water for consumption even though your water samples have remained in the range of 2.0 to 8.5 ppb.

Therefore, in light of the USEPA-proposed standard of 20 ppb and the fact that the levels of uranium in your water are well below this standard, we cannot go beyond our commitment to supply you with bottled water for drinking and cooking. This represents an annual cost to the government of \$660. In accordance with your preference for cash payment, enclosed is a check for \$660. This cash payment will continue until the public water system is operational.

J. Pottenger

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We will also sample your water regularly and provide you with the results as we have in the past. If you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 648-3137.

Sincerely,



Walter J. Quaid
Deputy Associate Director
Office of Safety & Assessment

FN:Skintik

Enclosure: Check

cc:

J. Hoopes, FERMCO, MS15
P. Kelley, FERMCO, MS82-3



bcc:

D. Brettschneider, FERMCO, MS52-5
R.D. George, FERMCO, MS52-2
P. Kraps, FREMCO, MS65-3

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