

2/4/04
69FR5374 (13)

From: "PHILLIP BARR" <pharb2@msn.com>
To: <LES_EIS@nrc.gov>
Date: 2/20/04 11:57AM
Subject: Objection to license for Louisiana Energy Services plant in Lea County, New Mexico

Morning,

One of many reasons I object to LES getting a license is I believe the local game birds, quail and dove will be affected. If they get contaminated by radiation, then the hunters and families who consume them will be affected also.

British Nuclear Fuels L. runs a reprocessing plant at Sellafields in the UK. They are a partner of LES.

Even with all the technology, there is a warning against the consumption of pigeons in a ten mile radius around this plant.

Its very likely this could happen here to the local quail and dove population.

That was in 1998. See bottom of page.

Here is a reply from a Mr. Conney. He is a Government researcher in the UK

((A member of the local development office in Hobbs has requested that I not send them anything about LES, and I live in Lea County.))

We had wind gusts in this area yesterday that were around 60 mph. I don't think any radiation released by a uranium enrichment plant would stay inside the fence.

Phillip Barr
 Lea county

----- Original Message -----

From: Stuart.Conney@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk
To: pharb2@msn.com
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2004 2:46 AM
Subject: Sellafield Pigeons

----- Forwarded by Stuart Conney/RPRM/FSA on 19/02/04 09:48 -----

Stuart Conney
 To: pharb2@msn.com
 13/02/04 11:50 cc:
 Subject: Sellafield Pigeons

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 2004 FEB 20 PM 1:31
 Rules and Directives
 Branch
 USNRC

Dear Mr Barr,

Your query has been passed to me as I was on the original working group deal with this problem.

The current situation is that the precautionary advice is still effective. I should qualify this by saying that I await only one piece of information, on the soundness of building structures, before the advice would be lifted.

There is currently no evidence of a feral pigeon population on site and the

Template = ADM-013

E-KFDS = ADM-03
 Add = M. Grenson (TE'S)
 M. Wong (NEW)

site operators have an active programme to dissuade any birds from populating any buildings.

The Food Standards Agency routinely take samples of pigeons from the local area, surrounding the Sellafield site to monitor this state of affairs.

Please feel free to contact me further,
Stuart Conney

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98/98 13 March 1998

RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION IN FERAL PIGEONS AROUND SELLAFIELD

The results of independent monitoring carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on pigeons in the Sellafield area are published on the internet today.

Following the recent discovery of elevated levels of radioactive contamination in feral pigeons close to British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) Sellafield, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food advised local residents on 14 February 1998 not to handle, slaughter or consume any pigeons found within a ten mile radius of the site. The advice was based on provisional monitoring undertaken by BNFL. MAFF's results confirm the advice issued was appropriate.

Feral pigeons are unlikely to enter the human food chain. A survey of traders in the area confirmed there is no pigeon meat for sale.

Food Safety Minister Mr Rooker said today:

"Although it is unlikely that any affected feral pigeons are being eaten, we took precautionary action and advised against eating the birds as soon as the significance of the contamination levels came to light.

Our own comprehensive monitoring, published today on the internet, confirms that levels of radioactivity are significant in the birds. The full publication demonstrates our commitment to both food safety and openness."

MAFF has been monitoring contamination levels in foodstuffs produced around Sellafield, and other nuclear sites, for ten years. This has confirmed that other foodstuffs produced in this area are safe to eat.

Notes for Editors

1. MAFF issued precautionary advice on 14 February 1998 advising local residents not to handle,

slaughter or consume any pigeons within a ten mile radius of the site. This advice was based on BNFL's provisional results of analysis and still applies at present.

2. The principal radionuclide concerned is caesium-137. This is formed as a by-product of the fission process. The source of the contamination on site is currently being investigated by the Environment Agency and the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

3. MAFF monitoring to date indicates levels of radioactive caesium of up to 50,000 Bq/kg in the breast meat of pigeons. This indicates that consumption of the breast meat of about 20 birds would give a radiation dose of 1 mSv. The public dose limit is 1 mSv/year. However, the most affected birds are feral and racing pigeons and therefore unlikely to enter the human food chain. More details of MAFF monitoring have been published on this site.

4. MAFF undertakes a comprehensive programme of monitoring around Sellafield and other nuclear sites. The most recent results of this programme have been published in Radioactivity in Food and the Environment, 1996, published in September 1997.

5. Responsibility for the regulation of radioactive discharges lies with the Environment Agency while on-site worker safety is the responsibility of the HSE's Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

END

CC: "Ned" <Ned.Farquhar@state.nm.us>, <bernie@mail.house.gov>