

St. Joseph Medical Center

May 14, 2001

Mr. Theodore B. Smith
Environmental Engineer
Special Projects Section
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop 7-F27
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Re: Reading Slag Pile Site, Reading, PA; meeting of May 22, 2001

Via fax: 301-415-5398

Dear Mr. Smith:

St. Joseph Medical Center in Reading, PA is planning to build a new hospital in the Reading/Berks County area within the next 5 years.

One of the sites under consideration is located in the City of Reading and is presently owned by the Dana Corporation but is expected to be transferred to the Greater Berks Development Fund in the near future for redevelopment.

An adjacent property, presently part of the now defunct American Chain and Cable Company, encompasses an area called the "Reading Slag Pile" which contains low level radioactive waste left over from smelting operations done many years ago by the Cabot Corporation.

A portion of this slag pile lies in the right of way of the extension of River Road, which we believe is essential for access to the site under consideration for the new hospital.

We have just recently commissioned the firm of McCormick-Taylor, a noted highway and bridge design organization, to study the possibility of constructing a new bridge across the Schuylkill River from North Wyomissing Blvd. in Wyomissing, to the potential new site in the City of Reading.

Their study will consider geometry, cost, timing of development and environmental aspects of the site, one of which is the Reading Slag Pile.

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The extension of River Road will provide alternative access to the site for emergency vehicles as well as for the use of the general public. The results of this study will be available within the next 3-4 weeks.

In order to complete proper due diligence as part of our site analyses, we have requested a meeting with appropriate members of your staff to discuss the ramifications regarding this slag pile, including remediation options and technical feasibility.

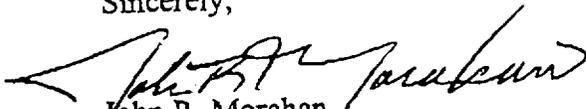
In essence we need to have a more complete understanding of the details of the regulatory process involved if and when remediation or containment action is taken at this site.

Mr. Thomas M. McMahon, P.E., current member of the Board of Directors of the Medical Center and former Board Chair, is assisting the hospital with site selection and analysis. Mr. McMahon has spoken to Brian Warner of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection who referred us to you.

We understand that a meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 22, 2001, 11:00 am at your office in Rockville, MD to discuss this issue and would appreciate any help you can give to Mr. McMahon and the hospital as we complete our analysis. If you have any questions, you can contact me at the hospital at 610-378-2300.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



John R. Morahan
President/CEO

cc: Thomas M. McMahon, P.E.
Congressman Holden's office, Washington, (Attn. Mr. William Hanley) Fax: 202-226-0996
Congressman Holden's office, Reading, (Attn Tim Smith) Fax: 610-371-9939
Jonathan L. Stolz, MD, Chair, SJRHN Board of Directors
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