

August 5, 2002

Mr. Richard Hill, Co-Chair
Jefferson Proving Ground Restoration Advisory Board
P.O. Box 813
Madison, IN 47250

Mr. Paul Cloud, Co-Chair
Jefferson Proving Ground Restoration Advisory Board
U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command
AMSSB-OET
5183 BlackHawk Road
Aberdeen Proving Ground
MD 21010-5424

SUBJECT: Response to Letter Requesting NRC Attendance at the August 14, 2002,
Jefferson Proving Ground Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

Dear Mr. Hill and Mr. Cloud:

This letter is in response to your letter dated July 8, 2002, requesting that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) attend the next meeting of the Jefferson Proving Ground (JPG) Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) to be held on August 14, 2002. As you noted in your letter, we recently received a revised decommissioning plan (DP) and environmental report (ER) on June 27, 2002. The NRC is currently conducting acceptance reviews of these documents which should be completed by September 30, 2002. When the DP is accepted, a detailed technical review will commence.

You will recall that the previous DP submitted by the Army on June 27, 2001, was rejected during an acceptance review due to deficiencies, mainly the lack of dose assessments for off-site users of surface water and groundwater. Until the revised DP is accepted and a technical review initiated, the NRC staff would not be able to answer specific technical questions about the DP. Therefore, the NRC staff could only restate the license termination process which has been done at previous RAB meetings. As a result, it seems more appropriate for NRC staff to consider participating in a future RAB meeting, once we have assessed the DP and are able to address the current site status. For these reasons we do not feel it is appropriate for NRC to attend the RAB meeting on August 14, 2002.

Mr. Hill and Mr. Cloud

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The transcribed minutes of previous RAB meetings show that you have provided phone numbers and e-mail addresses of NRC points of contact so that community members with questions can communicate with NRC. We continue to encourage any member of the public with specific questions to contact NRC.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-415-5869.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Tom McLaughlin, Project Manager
Facilities Decommissioning Section
Decommissioning Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 040-08838

License No.: SUB-1435

Mr. Hill and Mr. Cloud

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