

November 1, 2005

Stephen Helmer, Supervisor  
Decommissioning/Waste Management  
Bureau of Radiation Protection  
Ohio Department of Health  
35 E. Chestnut Street, 7th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43216

SUBJECT: NRC USE OF AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR TO PERFORM  
RADIOLOGICAL SURVEYS

Dear Mr. Helmer:

I am responding to your telephone inquiry about our use of a Department of Energy contractor for survey work for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). I am the Technical Project Manager for the contract with the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE)/Environmental Survey and Site Assessment Program. ORISE conducts independent radiation surveys for sites in the process of decommissioning. ORISE is NRC's only contractor for performing these independent site surveys and must remain impartial to avoid any potential conflict of interest. ORISE is also NRC's sole provider of laboratory services to analyze samples for radiological content. We do use a DOE laboratory in Idaho to provide interlaboratory comparison tests and to audit ORISE's laboratory work. We continue to be pleased with the performance of ORISE.

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

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Tom McLaughlin  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of Nuclear Materials Safety  
and Safeguards  
Division of Waste Management  
and Environmental Protection

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