



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

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OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONER

August 30, 1990

The Honorable Mike Synar, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment, Energy
and Natural Resources
Committee on Government Operations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of August 24, 1990, in which you express concern about recent findings of uranium contaminated water in soil around a building at the Sequoyah Fuels Corporation plant in Gore, Oklahoma. The Commission is also concerned about the source and extent of the contamination and is pursuing this matter thoroughly. In that regard, we sent an Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) to look into these and other health and safety issues associated with the incident. The team arrived on site August 27, 1990, when Sequoyah Fuels began its efforts to quantify the extent of the contaminated soil.

Throughout your letter, you referred to a condition of "ground-water contamination." Initially, we were advised by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff that uranium contamination was found in surface water which had collected in an excavation, and that no contamination of groundwater at the site had been found. The adequacy of this preliminary information was among the areas addressed by the AIT. The team completed its on-site inspection and left the site on Wednesday afternoon, August 29, 1990. No groundwater contamination was found. Additional characterization work is being performed by the licensee and monitored by the NRC. We will, of course, keep you and your staff informed of any significant new information that is developed.

Sincerely,

Kenneth C. Rogers

Kenneth C. Rogers
Acting Chairman

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