

STATE OF COLORADO

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Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

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Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

June 24, 2008

Major General Mark Graham
Commanding General
Division West, First Army and Fort Carson
Fort Carson, CO 80913

Subject: Investigation of Allegations of Uranium in Soils at the Piñon Canyon Maneuvering Site, Fort Carson, Colorado

Dear General Graham:

As you are aware, Colorado Representative Wes McKinley and the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center have alleged that they found elevated concentrations of uranium in soil samples taken during a tour of your facility over a year ago. The recent fires at Piñon Canyon have heightened concern over the potential for uranium to become entrained in smoke from the fire. Representative McKinley has raised a concern for potential public health risks from exposure to smoke from the fire and any toxins associated with it. I respectfully request that the Army take any and all necessary steps to investigate and characterize the potential for elevated concentrations of uranium in soil at the Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site and evaluate any associated health threats.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is available to assist the Army in developing plans for assessing the potential for contamination and health risks, as appropriate. Although the level of uranium in soil suggested by Representative McKinley does not indicate an imminent public health threat, it would be prudent to ascertain whether there are elevated levels of uranium in soil, whether the uranium is naturally-occurring or anthropogenic, and whether the presence and concentrations pose any potential risks to human health or the environment.

Thank you for your consideration of this request for investigation and characterization. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Vranka, Radiation Unit Leader in our Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division at 303.692.3402 or joseph.vranka@state.co.us

Sincerely,

James B. Martin
Executive Director

cc: Joe Vranka, Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Gary Baughman, Director, Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment