



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION I  
631 PARK AVENUE  
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406

May 25, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: File

THRU: G. H. Smith, Chief, FF&MS Branch

FROM: J. P. Stohr, Chief, E&SP Section

SUBJECT: TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
AND REPORTER FROM BOSTON GLOBE RE NORTON LANDFILL

On 5/24/79 Gerry Parker, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Director of Radiation Control Programs, and later a reporter from the Boston Globe (617-929-3157), Jerry Ackerman, called regarding the Norton Landfill area.

I informed Mr. Parker that I knew of no change in status and that the best source of information would probably be D. Sly, IE:HQ. (I called D. Sly subsequently and discussed the situation with him.) Mr. Parker informed me of some sampling that had reportedly been done at the site by Brown students.

I answered questions from Mr. Ackerman regarding the NRC "survey report" and additional NRC survey plans. I also referred him to Mr. Sly for any additional information and so informed Mr. Sly.

Mr. Ackerman stated that students from Brown, at the suggestion of Mr. John Sullivan, had taken water samples from the Norton site and environs and had them analyzed at Interex. He also stated that the property was not posted. The results were:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Gross Alpha</u>	<u>Gross Beta</u>
Marsh adjacent to landfill	280 pCi/l	1,227 pCi/l
Puddle in landfill	48,500 pCi/l	162,800 pCi/l
Shpack well	690 pCi/l	577 pCi/l

(Previously we had seen  $\leq 1$  to 6 pCi/ml other than a puddle on site which was 140 pCi/l gross alpha. EPA drinking water standards are 15 pCi/l gross alpha and 5 pCi/l radium. Normal background is usually  $\leq 1$  pCi/l in surface water but may range up to  $10^2$  to  $10^3$  pCi/l in well water depending on radon concentrations.)

254 3107

PK 50-320 P Roisman 79-98

7908220287

Abraham

- 2 -

Todd Jackson was to work on this 5/25/79 to confirm units with Mr. Ackerman. Subsequent to this, he was to discuss the matter with B. Crocker and D. Sly. Since the results appear so much higher than ours, they are suspect; however, we should consider getting additional samples for our analyses. If this is done, it should be done in coordination with the town of Norton and Massachusetts personnel.

I told Mr. Ackerman that I would ask Karl Abraham to provide him a copy of the investigation report when released to the PDP.

*J. P. Stohr*  
J. P. Stohr, Chief  
E & SP Section

cc: B. Crocker, IE  
D. Sly, IE:HQ  
K. Abraham, RI  
T. Elsasser, RI  
T. Jackson, RI

254 318