



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

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September 4, 1979

The Honorable Margaret M. Heckler
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Heckler:

I am pleased to respond to your request for information regarding the present and future jurisdiction of the Norton and Attleboro, Massachusetts sites at which radioactive materials have been found.

As you know, a meeting was held between the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on July 9, 1979, to discuss jurisdiction for these sites. It was agreed that the NRC surveys and investigation showed that the material in the Norton landfill was waste from one or more former government contracts and thus falls under DOE jurisdiction. Recently, Ms. Bauer of your staff was briefed on the details discussed during the meeting by a representative of the DOE, and a written summary of the meeting was forwarded to your office on July 31, 1979.

On July 24, 1979, representatives of the DOE and NRC briefed officials of the towns of Norton and Attleboro and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

The displacement of surface soil at the Attleboro Finberg Field site to which you refer in your letter was the result of decontamination efforts by the Commonwealth. Since radium, a radioactive material not regulated by the NRC or DOE, was the sole radioactive contaminant found at this site, remedial action is under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth. As a beginning of remedial action at the site, several surface and shallow sub-surface "hot spots" were removed from the site in early June by representatives of the Massachusetts Department of Health and the town of Attleboro. These spots were removed by shoveling the contaminated soil into drums and filling the holes with clean soil. Radiation surveys performed after this decontamination effort showed that no contamination has been spread as a result. The contaminated drummed soil was placed in drums and was transferred by Interex, Inc. to a commercial burial ground.

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The Honorable Margaret M. Heckler

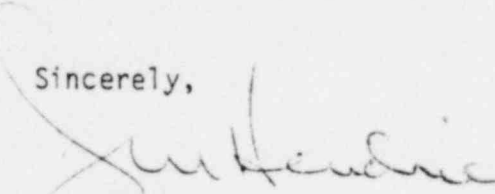
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In regard to your request for drilling tests at the Attleboro Finberg Field site, the NRC had offered to assist the Commonwealth by performing limited tests at this site in conjunction with the program planned for the Norton site. At the July 24, 1979 briefing, DOE was made aware of the NRC offer and agreed to discuss the details of drilling at this site with the Department of Health when developing its plan for remedial action.

Responsibility for remedial action at the DOE rests with the Environmental Control Technology Division. Mr. William E. Mott is the Division Director. The division is in the DOE's Office of Environmental Compliance and Overview under the Assistant Secretary, Environment.

As requested in your July 16, 1979 letter, the NRC Region I Office will continue to inform your office of significant events which occur in regard to the Norton and Attleboro sites while the DOE is becoming familiar with the situation.

Sincerely,



Joseph M. Hendrie

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