



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

November 17, 1989

Distribution:

JTaylor
HThompson
JBlaha
EDO 4827
EDO r/f
RFonner, OGC
JGoldberg, OGC
JLieberman
ABDavis, RIII
BMallett, RIII
JScinto, OGC
GSjoblom
FBrown
CJenkins
NMSS r/f
GLaRoche
VMiller, SLITP
Docket 40-8035/40-8801
PDR

Mr. G. Tracy Mehan, III, Director
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
P. O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Dear Mr. Mehan:

I am responding to your letter of October 17, 1989, concerning the West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton, St. Louis County, Missouri. Following the briefing I received during my visit to Missouri in January 1988, several steps have been taken which may lead to remediation of the radioactive material at the West Lake site.

In June 1988, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff published its evaluation of the situation at the site in a report entitled "Radioactive Material in the West Lake Landfill, Summary Report," NUREG-1308, Rev. 1. This "Summary Report" concluded, in brief, that although it is unlikely that anyone has received significant radiation exposure from the existing situation, remediation is necessary to establish adequate permanent control of the radioactive material and to avoid potential future impacts. In July 1989, the NRC staff published a report entitled "Site Characterization and Remedial Action Concepts for the West Lake Landfill." This document supports the "Summary Report" and provides an environmental characterization of the site. (Copies of the above reports are enclosed.)

On September 13, 1989, Mr. Robert M. Bernero, Director of our Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, met with Mr. George Rifakes, President of Cotter Corporation. Mr. Bernero informed him of the circumstances of the radioactive material in the West Lake Landfill and that the NRC staff considers Cotter Corporation responsible for taking whatever remedial measures are necessary for protection of the public health and safety from hazards posed by the radioactive material. A follow-up meeting was held on October 16, 1989, between members of the NRC and Mr. Rifakes. Subsequently, Mr. Bernero expressed the NRC position in an October 25, 1989 letter to Cotter Corporation. In this letter, a copy of which is enclosed, Mr. Bernero requested the Corporation's plans for characterizing the location and concentration of the radionuclides contaminating the site and for evaluating the site for remediation.

Originated: NMSS:Swift

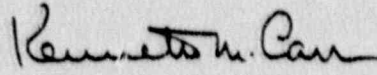
8911300041 891117
PDR COMMS NRCC
CORRESPONDENCE PDC

JF03
11

The NRC staff is seeking a plan for remediation that is consistent with Federal, State, and local requirements and will coordinate with your Department, the EPA, and other authorities toward this end.

If I can be of any further assistance to you in this matter, please contact me.

Sincerely,


Kenneth M. Carr

Enclosures:

1. "Summary Report" dated
June 1988
2. Report dated July 1989
3. Letter to Cotter Corporation
dated October 25, 1989

cc: Jonathan Z. Cannon
Acting Assistant Administrator for
Solid Waste and Emergency Response
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

Morris Kay, Regional Administrator
Region VII
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency



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

November 17, 1989

PDR

Mr. G. Tracy Mehan, III, Director
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
P. O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Dear Mr. Mehan:

I am responding to your letter of October 17, 1989, concerning the West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton, St. Louis County, Missouri. Following the briefing I received during my visit to Missouri in January 1988, several steps have been taken which may lead to remediation of the radioactive material at the West Lake site.

In June 1988, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff published its evaluation of the situation at the site in a report entitled "Radioactive Material in the West Lake Landfill, Summary Report," NUREG-1308, Rev. 1. This "Summary Report" concluded, in brief, that although it is unlikely that anyone has received significant radiation exposure from the existing situation, remediation is necessary to establish adequate permanent control of the radioactive material and to avoid potential future impacts. In July 1989, the NRC staff published a report entitled "Site Characterization and Remedial Action Concepts for the West Lake Landfill." This document supports the "Summary Report" and provides an environmental characterization of the site. (Copies of the above reports are enclosed.)

On September 13, 1989, Mr. Robert M. Bernero, Director of our Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, met with Mr. George Rifakes, President of Cotter Corporation. Mr. Bernero informed him of the circumstances of the radioactive material in the West Lake Landfill and that the NRC staff considers Cotter Corporation responsible for taking whatever remedial measures are necessary for protection of the public health and safety from hazards posed by the radioactive material. A follow-up meeting was held on October 16, 1989, between members of the NRC and Mr. Rifakes. Subsequently, Mr. Bernero expressed the NRC position in an October 25, 1989 letter to Cotter Corporation. In this letter, a copy of which is enclosed, Mr. Bernero requested the Corporation's plans for characterizing the location and concentration of the radionuclides contaminating the site and for evaluating the site for remediation.

DFO²
11

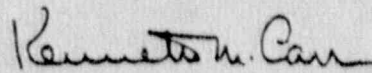
G. Tracy Mehan, III

2

The NRC staff is seeking a plan for remediation that is consistent with Federal, State, and local requirements and will coordinate with your Department, the EPA, and other authorities toward this end.

If I can be of any further assistance to you in this matter, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Kenneth M. Carr

Enclosures:

1. "Summary Report" dated
June 1988
2. Report dated July 1989
3. Letter to Cotter Corporation
dated October 25, 1989

cc: Jonathan Z. Cannon
Acting Assistant Administrator for
Solid Waste and Emergency Response
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

Morris Kay, Regional Administrator
Region VII
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency