

040-02253

APR 19 1993

Department of the Army  
New England Division  
Corps of Engineers  
ATTN: Richard D. Reardon  
Director of Engineering  
424 Trapelo Road  
Waltham, Massachusetts 02254-9149

Dear Mr. Reardon:

This is in response to your request for approval to conduct an Interim Measures Action at the Former Watertown Arsenal, GSA Property, located in Watertown, Massachusetts as detailed in your Scope of Work (SOW), dated October 20, 1992. We recently approved that request, but in our letter dated April 15, 1993 we stated we had not completed our review of the site characterization for the GSA Property. We have reviewed the Comprehensive Site Assessment, GSA Federal Property Resources Center, Watertown, Massachusetts, by Chem-Nuclear Systems, Inc., dated October 1990 (CNSI Report); the Formerly Utilized MED/AEC Sites Remedial Action Program, Radiological Survey of the Former Watertown Arsenal Property, GSA Site, Watertown, Massachusetts, by Argonne National Laboratory, dated October 1983 (ANL Report); and additional historical documents to determine the adequacy of the site characterization of the GSA Property. The GSA Property must be fully characterized and remediated before it can be released for unrestricted use. The SOW addresses the burn pit area and two additional "hot spots" previously identified in the CNSI Report and ANL Report. However, we need additional information about other areas to determine whether they require further radiological characterization and possibly remediation. We need the following additional information to continue our review of the site characterization:

1. The ANL Report identifies areas of the GSA Property where surface measurements indicate there may be soil contamination. The specific locations are those in Areas II and V as identified in Figure 6, Page 25 and Table 1, Pages 34-36 of the ANL Report. Please provide a plan to further radiologically characterize and, if necessary, remediate these locations.
2. Appendix E of the CNSI Report identifies an area (Property 20) adjacent to the GSA Property that was under the control of the former Watertown Arsenal until August 22, 1951. Please provide an explanation of the former Watertown Arsenal's use of this property and a plan to radiologically characterize and, if necessary, remediate Property 20.

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3. Please provide the date the asphalt surface around Buildings 234 and 235 of the GSA Property was constructed and evaluate the possibility of radioactive contamination being under the asphalt surface.
4. Appendix G and Section 3.05, Page 12 of the CNSI Report identifies a concrete surface structure located on the north end of the GSA property. Please identify the purpose of this structure, if possible, and provide a plan to radiologically characterize and, if necessary, remediate the concrete surface structure.
5. Figure B-5, Page 64, Appendix B of the Archival Review, Formerly Used Defense Site, Watertown Arsenal, Watertown, Massachusetts, by Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc., dated July 1991 (Revised February 1992) identifies a six inch pipe located along the northwest boundary of the GSA Property and ending in the general area of the burn pit. Section 3.06, Page 13 of the CNSI Report identifies this pipe as a water service line. Please verify the purpose of this pipe and provide an explanation of the triangular symbols 61-64, the symbols 40 and 41, and the other five circular symbols connected to the pipe system as labelled in Figure B-5. Please also provide a plan to radiologically characterize and, if necessary, remediate the pipe system.

We have not completed our review of the information provided concerning the geohydrology of the site, the groundwater monitoring program or your conclusions regarding the possible effects of radioactive contamination on groundwater.

We will continue our review of the site characterization upon receipt of this information. Please reply in duplicate to my attention at the Region I office. If you have any technical questions regarding this letter please call Mark R. Bouwens at (215) 337-6910.

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:  
John D. Kinneman

John D. Kinneman, Chief  
Research, Development, and  
Decommissioning Section  
Division of Radiation Safety  
and Safeguards

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