

40-861



Department of Energy  
Washington, D.C. 20585

October 12, 1982

Mr. Robert M. Quillin, CHP  
Radiological Health Program Director  
Department of Health  
246 N. High Street  
Post Office Box 118  
Columbus, Ohio 43216

Dear Mr. Quillin:

In response to your request concerning the Weldon Spring site, I am pleased to provide the following information. By way of background information, a preliminary study, by Bechtel National Incorporated, was performed during the spring and summer of 1982, as a part of DOE's Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program, FUSRAP.

The study considered the possibility of disposing of wastes from seven FUSRAP sites, from outside Missouri, by using the raffinate pits in Weldon Spring, Missouri. Currently, DOE has legislative authority for remedial action to cleanup one of these seven sites. That site is located at the University of Chicago. But, legislative authority is also being sought to cleanup the other six sites.

Two of these sites are in the State of Ohio. They are the Harshaw Chemical and Clecon Metals sites, and both are located in Cleveland. Of the other four, two are in the State of Illinois, other than the University of Chicago, and one each in the States of Texas and Iowa.

The University of Chicago was the site of the first nuclear pile (CP-1) where research and development was conducted which led to the development of the atomic bomb. Contamination is present at low-levels in a few of the laboratory buildings. Even though some of the buildings where those activities took place are still being used by the University, there is no significant health hazard to the users, under present conditions. Our estimates are that about 75 cubic yards of materials should be removed for disposal, but no firm schedule has been established for removal.

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At Clecon Mentals, Inc., two buildings were used for handling radioactive materials in the 1940s and 1950s. Currently, the plant is used for the production of gaskets and the lamination of various materials. However, our survey shows that contamination exists in drains, storage areas, and under floors, with about 385 cubic yards of materials to be removed for disposal.

Three buildings at the Harshaw Chemical Plant were used for the production of various uranium compounds from 1942 until 1960. The plant is still in operation, processing non-radioactive chemicals. Radiological surveys show that contamination is present in buildings and soil, with an estimated 9,200 cubic years of materials to be removed for disposal.

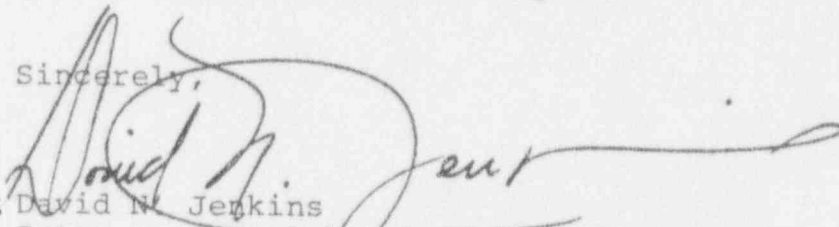
Although the disposal of these materials would be only an insignificant addition to the radioactive waste that is now in the Weldon Spring raffinate pits, DOE has no present plan to proceed with disposal of wastes from these seven sites.

If Congress were to provide legislative authority to proceed with remedial action at these sites, DOE would proceed with an analysis of alternatives for remedial actions, including methods of removal and disposal, and suitable disposal sites. In addition, DOE would also carryout the process required by the National Environmental Policy Act to arrive at a decision on choosing an alternative.

I agree that, because of public interest in radioactive waste disposal, it would be beneficial to both the Department and the State of Ohio if information is made available for you to respond to inquiries.

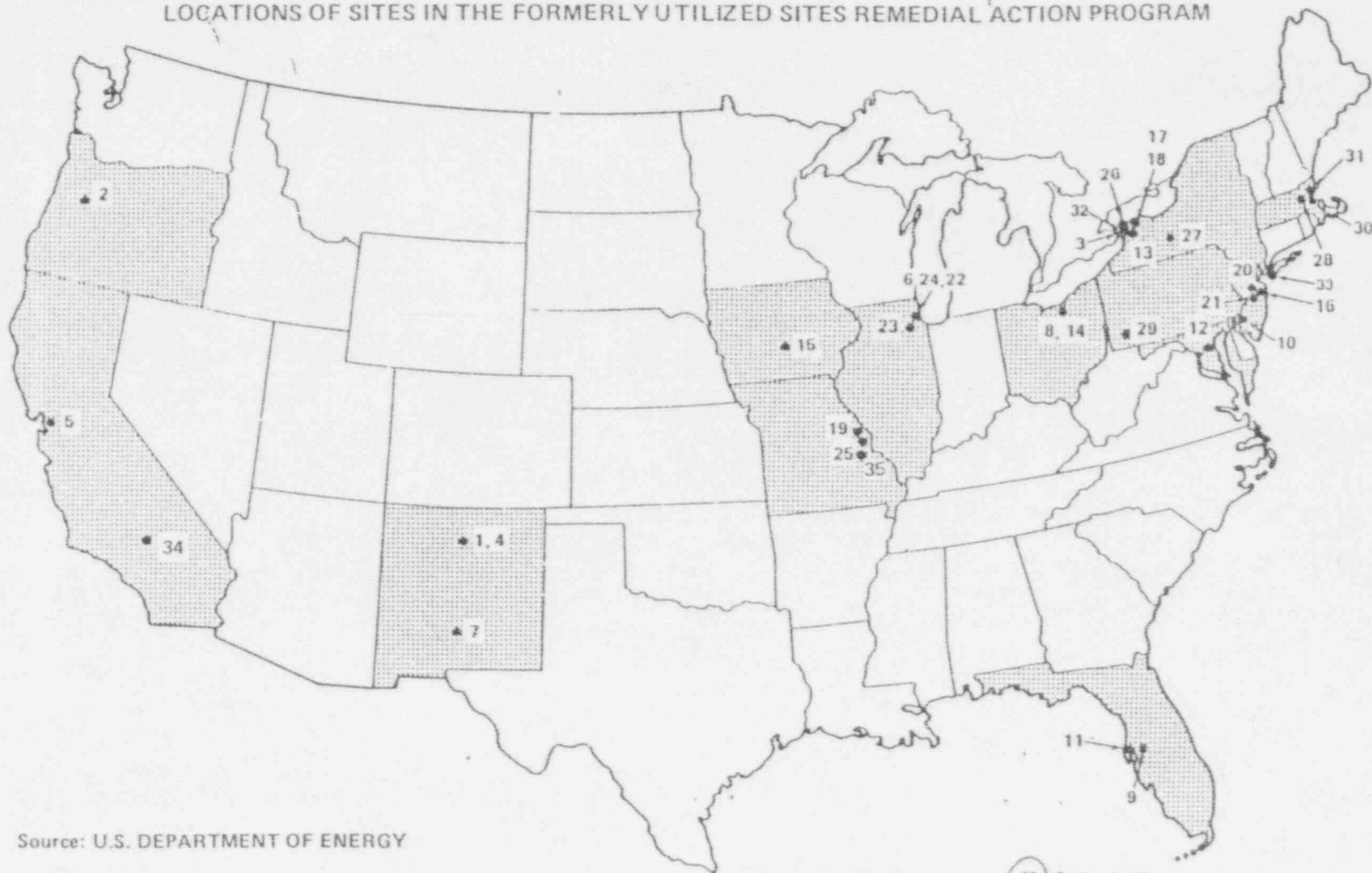
In an effort to establish this mutual relationship, the information above has been provided. However, if additional information is needed, please do not hesitate to write or call. I may be reached on (202) 252-4817.

Sincerely,



David N. Jenkins  
Intergovernmental Relations Officer  
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

LOCATIONS OF SITES IN THE FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM



Source: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

- |   |                                       |   |   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Acid/Pueblo Canyon                   | 9. Conserv Inc.                       | 17. Lake Ontario Ordnance Works Associated Properties | 26. St. Louis Airport                     |
| 2. Albany Metallurgical Research Center | 10. E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company | 18. Linde Air Products                                | 27. Seneca Army Depot                     |
| 3. Ashland Company                      | 11. Gardiner, Inc.                    | 19. Mallinckrodt, Inc.                                | 28. Shipak Landfill                       |
| 4. Bayo Canyon                          | 12. W.R. Grace & Company              | 20. Middlesex Landfill                                | 29. Universal Cyclops, Inc.               |
| 5. University of California             | 13. Guterl Steel Corp.                | 21. Middlesex Sampling Plant                          | 30. Ventron Corporation                   |
| 6. University of Chicago                | 14. Harshaw Chemical Company          | 22. National Guard Armory                             | 31. Watertown Arsenal                     |
| 7. Chupadera Mesa                       | 15. Iowa State University             | 23. Olin Chemical Company                             | 32. Ashland No. 2                         |
| 8. Clecon Metals, Inc.                  | 16. Kellax                            | 24. Palos Park  | 33. Staten Island                         |
|   |                                       |   | 34. Pasadena Chemical Company             |
|   |                                       |   | 35. St. Louis Airport Vicinity Properties |