

February 23, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. A. Hind, Director, Division of Emergency Preparedness
and Operational Support

FROM: William B. Menckner, Regional State Liaison Officer

SUBJECT: TRIP REPORT - PRINCETON, ILLINOIS

On February 18, 1982, C. J. Papariello and I were in the subject location attending a public meeting concerning the Sheffield Nuclear Waste Disposal Site. Presentations were made by Barbara Chasnoff, Assistant Illinois Attorney General and Philip F. Gustafson, Director, Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (DNS) who summarized recent activities at Sheffield regarding tritium migration offsite in ground water. Following the presentations, a panel consisting of Ms. Chasnoff; Dr. Gustafson; David Ed, DNS; Howard Chin, Engineer, Attorney General's Office; Dr. Papariello and I responded to questions from the audience which consisted of approximately seventy local residents, state legislators, municipal and county officials, environmental groups, and the news media.

The audience was concerned with the proposed U.S. Ecology (USE) acquisition of offsite property under which tritium was detected, any health hazards posed by the tritium concentrations found in the ground water, decommissioning the site, the status of the site's license, U. S. Ecology's previous activities at Mary Flats, plans to arrest tritium migration offsite, the extent of monitoring wells at USE's chemical site, the geological composition of the site, the locations and depths of the monitoring wells, possible offsite migration of other radioactive elements besides tritium, the permeability of the site burial trenches, gross alpha and radium levels in the ground water, the details of the recent agreement reached between USE and the State of Illinois for additional sampling wells, and any local control or jurisdiction over the expansion of the site buffer zone.

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-2-

February 23, 1982

The meeting explored numerous issues surrounding the site and was of an informational benefit to the attendees. Unfortunately, numerous attendees were not satisfied with some of the panel's responses regardless of the level of detailed information provided. The meeting was conducted well and achieved its objective of explaining State actions regarding the site.

William B. Menckner

William B. Menckner
Regional State Liaison Officer

cc: J. G. Kappler, RIII
C. J. Paperiello, RIII
J. D. Salzman, OSP
E. F. Hawkins, NMSS
D. L. Siefken, NMSS
J. A. Shaffner, NMSS
R. E. Browning, NMSS

OFFICE					
SURNAME					
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