

May 18, 1998

Ms. Leah Dever, Manager
Ohio Field Office
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 3020
Miamisburg, OH 45343-3020

SUBJECT: FOLLOWUP TO PREVIOUS NRC REGION III STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS
REGARDING BATTELLE COLUMBUS LABORATORIES DECOMMISSIONING
PROJECT

Dear Ms. Dever:

It was a pleasure to meet you and members of your staff on April 9, 1998, at the Battelle Columbus Laboratories, West Jefferson Offices. The discussions during this meeting improved our understanding of the current U.S. Department of Energy and Battelle decommissioning relationship. During these discussions with you and members of the Battelle staff, it was indicated that the original radiological contamination source term for the West Jefferson Site was in the process of being revised significantly upward, i.e., from approximately 6,000-8,000 curies to 60,000-80,000 curies.

This increase in the estimated radiological source term reinforces the concerns we expressed in our August 28, 1997, letter to Mr. Robert Folker, Acting Manager, Ohio Field Office. In that letter we outlined several safety concerns regarding the West Jefferson Site, should decommissioning be delayed due to reductions in funding of the Battelle decommissioning project. Additionally, we indicated that the Commission may be required to take additional actions on the Battelle license if the decommissioning project were to be delayed.

In view of the above, we would appreciate any information which demonstrates that funding for the Battelle decommissioning project will be maintained, such that it will meet its scheduled commitment with this Agency. Likewise, we remain interested in any potential actions to be taken to mitigate our safety concerns.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mike McCann at (630) 829-9856 or myself at (630) 829-9615 should you have any questions regarding this issue

Sincerely,

Original Signed by

9805270231 980518
PDR ADOCK 07000008
C PDR

Bruce L. Jorgensen, Chief
Decommissioning Branch

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