

for
From: Michael F. Weber (MFW)
To: KP1(CMY, CWH, JHJ, RCR1, RJB, SFS), KP2(DJC1),... *hawaii*
Date: Friday, November 4, 1994 1:15 pm
Subject: NEWS ON KISKI VALLEY SLUDGE

I heard today from Bob Kossak, Kiski Valley Water Pollution Control Authority, that PADER sent him a letter today **denying** the beneficial use permit, which would have allowed the use of the contaminated sewage sludge at the Mill Services Hazardous Waste Disposal Facility. He faxed me a copy of the letter. The basis of the denial was the elevated levels of uranium in the sludge, although PADER did not cite a specific regulation in its denial. Mill Services has 60 days to appeal. Appeal is possible, though unlikely. PADER did not coordinate this decision with NRC or the other parties.

He also informed me that the ORISE characterization of the sludge in the impoundment is being **delayed** because of a lack of funding (?). Is this correct? Anything we can do to arrange for the NRC funding to get ORISE moving on the additional characterization?

Several other tidbits from my conversation with Mr. Kossak:

1. Belinda Thurston, Valley News Dispatch, is going on an assignment with USA Today in McLean, VA, to do a **national story on radioactive contamination of sewer plants**. Her assignment begins on about the first of the year. She plans to do a general story and then focus on the Kiski Valley contamination.
2. Kiski is aware of the exemption request submitted by B&W to allow for the discharge of "insoluble" material from the Parks Township facility. His view is basically it's OK if NRC says it's OK. B&W met separately with Kiski and had their HP consultant (Tom Potter) provide a briefing on the basis for the exemption.
3. Kiski met yesterday with B&W for an initial discussion about liability for the contaminated sewer sludge at the plant in Leechburg. It was a friendly meeting, although no firm positions were taken by either party. He expects more meetings will be required, especially after the more detailed characterization information is available.
4. Mr. Kossak was a bit surprised with Randy's estimate that the sludge in the lagoon averages about 100 pCi/g of enriched U (quoted in Valley News Dispatch). He thought that our preliminary information was too sketchy to draw such a firm conclusion on the average concentration, especially if we are saying more characterization is needed.

Mike

CC: HMA, JHA, JJS, JTG1, MRK, TW8(CGJ), SFG, TJM, FXC

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