

August 28, 1981

The Honorable Anthony C. Beilenson
United States House of Representatives
23rd District, California
11000 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Dear Congressman Beilenson:

This will confirm my discussions on August 21, 1981 with members of your staff and with local government officials representing the city of Los Angeles. Those discussions related to the possible conversion of some Veterans Administration property in Los Angeles to use as a public park.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission takes no position on whether the property should be converted to use as a public park. Our position is a broader one, and states that no restrictions whatsoever are required on future use of the land as a result of any radioactive material it might contain. Therefore, the land may be used as a public park, or it may be converted to any other desired use as far as we are concerned.

Our evaluation shows that a user of the property might conceivably receive a radiation dose of 1.5 mrem per year. The evaluation assumed a very conservative set of circumstances that could not possibly occur if the property were to be utilized as a park. That is, a park user would actually receive radiation exposure much less than the calculated 1.5 mrem per year. This can be compared to a natural background radiation level of about 100 mrem per year received by every resident in the city of Los Angeles, and about 200 mrem per year received by every resident of the city of Denver. A one way coast-to-coast jet airplane trip results in an increased dose of about 2 mrems, 25% more than would be received by an individual during use of the property for a year. A chest or dental x-ray results in a whole-body dose of 9 or 10 mrem.

The risk from any radioactive material at this location is vanishingly small and should not be a factor in any decision regarding future use of the property. The calculations and scientific basis for the NRC position are included in an NRC report and evaluation forwarded to your Los Angeles office by letter dated August 6, 1981. There are no restrictions on the reproduction and outside distribution of that report.

bcc: R. Cunningham, NMSS:HQ
J. Suermann, CA:HQ
L. Higginbotham, IE:HQ

Sincerely,

HS
Herbert E. Book, Chief
Radiological Safety Branch

AKG

OFFICE	RV					
SURNAME	Book, HC					
DATE	8/28/81					