

October 19, 2006

The Honorable Frank R. Lautenberg
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lautenberg:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter dated September 19, 2006. You requested that the NRC hold a public meeting on the decommissioning of the Shieldalloy Metallurgical Corporation (SMC) site in Newfield, New Jersey, before accepting SMC's decommissioning plan (DP). The NRC received SMC's DP in October 2005, and SMC supplemented it on June 30, 2006. In mid-September 2006, before receiving your letter, NRC staff completed its "acceptance review" of the DP. The NRC staff found that the DP contains sufficient information for the NRC staff to begin its detailed technical review. This acceptance of the DP initiates the public process that is part of the detailed technical and environmental reviews. The acceptance finding does not constitute an approval of the DP and does not bar the NRC from requesting that SMC provide additional information. Whether the DP will be approved remains to be determined and depends on the findings of the staff's detailed technical and environmental reviews.

The NRC staff will soon be publishing its notice of the DP's receipt in the *Federal Register* and local media. The *Federal Register* notice offers the opportunity to request a hearing and solicits public comments on the DP.

After publishing the DP in the *Federal Register*, the NRC staff plans to hold two public meetings near the SMC site in November. During one of these meetings, the NRC staff will discuss its DP review process, and the public will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments. At another meeting, NRC staff will solicit public input as part of the National Environmental Policy Act process. SMC has proposed a restricted use decommissioning, and NRC will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for this decommissioning proposal. In addition, the NRC staff also plans on meeting with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection in the next few months to discuss issues regarding the SMC site.

The Commission appreciates your interest in the SMC site as well as the opportunity to explain how public involvement is an integral part of our decommissioning process. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dale E. Klein

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Frank R. Lautenberg
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Robert Menendez
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Similar letter sent to: **(date of letter responding to is the difference)**

The Honorable Frank A. LoBiondo
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515