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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION II
26 FEDERAL PLAZA
NEW YORK NEW YORK 10278

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Mr. Lowell F. Campbell
Acting Director
Technical Services Division
United States Department of Energy
Post Office Box E
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

Re: Response to Radiological and Chemical Results from Property G Located on SCA-Chemical Waste Property, Model City, New York

Dear Mr. Campbell:

The Radiation Branch and the Hazardous Waste Compliance Branch of the Air and Waste Management Division, United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region II, have reviewed your December 7, 1987 submittal summarizing both the chemical and radiological data from the above mentioned site and request a response to the following comments.

a) Comments generated from review of chemical data

The results of the chemical data for the material sampled in the 31 drums from Property G indicate the presence of numerous hazardous waste constituents (as defined in 40 CFR Part 261 Appendix VIII, as well as appropriate New York State regulations). Similar materials were reportedly observed in soils within the excavated area and were removed as had been directed by the staff from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). Leaching from this material into the unexcavated soils and/or into the aquifer may have occurred. In light of this, EPA would appreciate the opportunity to review the results of "confirmation sampling" of the soils and groundwater which may be conducted to ensure that adequate removal of hazardous waste constituents has been accomplished.

EPA will assist you in preparing a confirmation sampling work plan. Such a work plan should consist of four parts: (1) a plan for the construction, installation, and development of groundwater monitoring wells that will be capable of detecting any release of hazardous constituents from the drums into the aquifer; (2) a groundwater sampling and analysis plan including the selection of parameters consistent with those found in the containers; (3) a plan for the sampling of soils at depths and locations necessary to determine soil contamination; and (4) a schedule of implementation.

The methodologies included in these plans should be consistent with the methodologies included in plans being developed by Chem-Waste on this same property. This includes, for example, well installation procedures and quality assurance/quality control measures. Mr. Ted Gabel of my staff at (212) 264-5920 will assist you in obtaining this information.

b) Comments generated from review of the radiological data

Because EPA has a continuing interest in this matter, we would appreciate a response to the following comments. Your response should be directed to the attention of Ms. Nina Ewall of the Radiation Branch.

- 1) On August 10, 1987, a letter was sent from S.W. Ahrend, Director of Technical Services Division, U.S. Department of Energy to Ted Gabel, of my office, regarding the above mentioned drums. The letter stated that a drum was encountered which was labeled "K-65" waste. We have concerns about K-65 wastes because when these have been encountered previously, they have proven to be very radioactive residue material. Please provide any analytical data you have developed to characterize this waste and any similarly labeled wastes.
- 2) Results of only 40 out of 49 drums of soil initially excavated are given. Are there radiological results of the other nine drums and what are they?
- 3) EPA has learned that an additional 41 drums were excavated following an inspection by the NYSDEC. Was radiological analysis performed on these drums? If so, what are the results? If they were not sampled, please explain why.
- 4) Please describe the composite sample referred to as "EB."

If you require any additional information on these comments, please do not hesitate to call Mr. Gabel at (212) 264-5920 or Ms. Ewall (212) 264-0503.

Sincerely yours,

Conrad Simon, Director

Air & Waste Management Division

cc: Mr. Dean Nelson SCA Chemical Waste Management

Dr. William Wertz
New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation