

FUSRAP

143649

CCN:

**FUSRAP COMMUNICATIONS DISTRIBUTION
DOE/ORO FORMER SITES RESTORATION DIVISION (EW-93)**FSRD ☒ COMM TYPE 1 G T

DATE PROCESSED BY PDCC

JUN 28 1996

SAIC SENSITIVE ☐

COMM REF

ADMIN RCD

SUBJECT NFS - EPA Review of Safety of the High-Level Uranium Ore ResiduesFROM Hargrove TO Kirk/Andrews COMM DATE 6/20/96ADDR CODE 1 1 CLOSING CCN WBS 158SUBJECT CODE 2552 AFFECTED DOCUMENT**RESPONSE TRACKING INFORMATION****ACTION DESCRIPTION:****PRIMARY:**

OWED TO:

(ORG) TARGET DATE / / **PRIMARY:**

OWED BY:

CLOSING CCN COMPL DATE / / CLOSING REF **SECONDARY:**

OWED TO:

(ORG) 4.174 6830.1 TARGET DATE / / **SECONDARY:**

OWED BY:

CLOSING CCN COMPL DATE / / CLOSING REF **MESSAGE:**

W/A W/O				W/A W/O				W/A W/O			
DIRECTOR, FSRD:	L. Price	FSRD		PROGRAM MANAGER:	J. Waddell	SAIC		PROGRAM MANAGER:	R. Harbert	BPM	
DEP. DIRECTOR, FSRD:	W. Seay	FSRD		DEPUTY PROGRAM MGR:	T. Patterson	FIC		DEPUTY PROGRAM MGRS:	W. Futrell	BPM	
	J. Hart	FSRD		MGMT. SYSTEMS:	K. Renfro	SAIC			A. Boos	BPM	
	D. Adler	FSRD		SECRETARY:	S. Hapinstar	SAIC		PROJ. MGRS:	M. Redmon	BPM	
	B. Aldin	FSRD							G. Palau	BPM	
	S. Cange	FSRD		<i>E. McNamee</i>					P. Griffin	BPM	
	J. Derby	FSRD		<i>G. Stephens</i>				COMMUNITY RELATIONS		BCR	
	E. Green	FSRD						CONSTRUCTION		BFC	
	G. Hartman	FSRD						ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY		BET	
	J. Japp	FSRD						ENGINEERING		BET	
	R. Kirk	FSRD						ENVR TECHDATA		BET	
	J. Kopotic	FSRD						GEOTECH		BET	
	L. Marz	FSRD						PROG. GUIDANCE & ASSESSMENT		BEH	
	M. Noe	FSRD						SAFETY & HEALTH		BEH	
	S. Oldham	FSRD						ENVR COMPLIANCE		BEH	
	S. Williams	FSRD						QUALITY ASSURANCE		BOA	
FROM ANALYST:	K. Houser	FSRD						WASTE MGMT		BWM	
SECRETARY:	M. Seiber/M. Dyke/ T. Patterson	FSRD						WASTE TREATMENT		BWT	
FSRD CHRON FILE								PROCUREMENT		BPO	
FSRD NOTEBOOKS				THERMO NUTECH		BET		PROJECT ADMINISTRATION		BPA	
READING FILE				SITES: 158 NFSS				INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY		BAU	
DOE/P&CD:	French	DCO		TONAWANDA INFO CTR.				PROJECT CONTROLS		BPC	
DOE/HQ:	A. Johnson	DHQ		137 WISS				TECHNICAL REPORTS		BTR	
ANL:	G. Maramba	ANL		138 MISS/INFO CTR				CENTRAL TOOLS & EQUIPMENT		BWS	
	D. Dunning	ANL		139 COLONIE (CISS)				ADMIN RCD/INFO REPOSITORY			
				140 / 153 LATTY AVE/SLAPS				PDCC READ FILE TO/FROM DOE			
								PDCC: SENSITIVE/CHRON FILE			

NFSS_0886



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1868

143649

JUN 27 11 31 AM '96

JUN 20 1996

Ron Kirk
Former Sites Restoration Division
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831-0723

Robert Andrews
Board on Radioactive Waste Management
National Research Council
2101 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20418

Dear Messrs. Kirk and Andrews:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the National Research Council's (NRC) report, entitled Safety of the High-Level Uranium Ore Residues at the Niagara Falls Storage Site, Lewiston, New York. At the request of the Department of Energy (DOE), the NRC conducted the study to identify short- and long-term issues with the existing waste containment structure at the Niagara Falls Storage Site (NFSS) in Lewiston, New York.

The findings of the report indicate that there is no immediate hazard to the off-site public from the residues in their present configuration. However, the report states that the high-level residues pose a potential long-term risk to the public, given the existing environmental conditions and future unpredictability, if they are left permanently at the NFSS. Moreover, it states that the proposed replacement of the interim cap with a permanent cap will not address these risks. To address these issues, the report includes the following recommendations: the DOE should develop a program to treat the high-level residues in a manner similar to that of the Fernald Environmental Management Project; once the high-level residues are removed, remaining wastes should be buried under a suitable protective cap on site; and an alternative monitoring and maintenance plan should be developed by DOE to measure and track transport of radiological and chemical contaminants at the NFSS, both prior to and following removal of the residues.


The findings of the report support EPA's long-time position that the high-level residues be sent off-site for disposal, not managed on-site over the long term. Accordingly, EPA concurs with the NRC recommendations that DOE develop a program for removal, treatment, and disposal off-site of the residues.

143649

2

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions regarding this matter, or require additional information, please call William Lawler of my staff at (212) 637-3491.

Sincerely yours,


Robert W. Hargrove, Chief
Environmental Impacts Branch

cc: E. Jablonowski, Region V