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Bechtel National, Inc.

Engineers — Constructors

Oak Ridge Office
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Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Mail Address: P. O. Box 350, Oak Ridge, TN 37830



November 4, 1982

Ms. Mary Ellen Clark

Dear Ms. Clark:

This is to acknowledge your letter of October 14th concerning the Niagara Falls Storage Site at the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works.

I appreciate your forthright expression of opinion regarding any long-term storage of radioactive materials at NFSS. We all might wish that the problem of handling contaminated material did not have to be confronted. However, no amount of wishful thinking will make this problem take care of itself. Contaminated materials must be dealt with, in New York State as elsewhere, and it is the objective of the Department of Energy's remedial action program to develop means for disposing of or storing such wastes in ways that have the least effect on public health and safety.

It would be of no service to the public if Bechtel, as the Department of Energy's technical consultant at NFSS, were to neglect any feasible solutions in evaluating possible methods of storing or otherwise disposing of contaminated materials where such methods are determined to be safe from health and environmental standpoints.

It is not possible to say, at this time, what, if any, future action may be taken at NFSS beyond the improvements in storage techniques currently being carried out in connection with the contaminated materials now on the site. I am sure you will understand that Bechtel's role at NFSS is that of technical contractor to the Department of Energy. Any decisions that may be made will be determined by the Department, and any future change in status it might consider for NFSS would, of course, be subject to the procedures set out in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

I hope the above comments are responsive to the first of the two questions you ask in your letter.

Ms. Mary Ellen Clark
November 2, 1982
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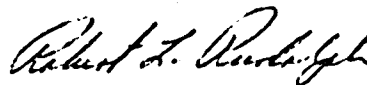
In reply to your second question, may I say that although I have no children in the Lewiston-Porter Central School, my wife and daughter and I live here in Oak Ridge, one of the nation's principal nuclear energy centers. Within our city limits are one of the government's three operating uranium enrichment plants, three operative nuclear reactors, a plant producing nuclear components for the nation's defense program, and a burial facility for both high and low level contaminated wastes.

Thousands of families have lived and worked in Oak Ridge for some 40 years now, and there continues to be no discernable evidence of any deleterious effects on public health or on the environment in this area. I consider Oak Ridge a convincing demonstration that radioactive materials can be handled and stored with complete safety to the public.

In my judgement, the same conditions apply at NFSS. The maintenance, monitoring, and remedial program there is providing the same kind of protection to public health and safety. I do not see grounds for public alarm, and I certainly would not hesitate to live with my family in the vicinity of NFSS.

I am taking the liberty of passing a copy of your letter to the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Operations Office, which is in charge of NFSS programs. Should you have any further questions about operations there, I will be happy to be of assistance.

Yours very truly,



Robert L. Rudolph
Project Manager-FUSRAP

RLR/dd

cc: E. L. Keller, Director
Technical Services Division
Oak Ridge Operations
Department of Energy

191/FPL000

October 14, 1982

Robert Rudolph-Project Manager
Bechtel National Inc.
1397 Fletcher Road
Lewiston, New York, 14092

Dear Mr. Rudolph:

Please understand that the possible use of the LOOW site as a permanent radioactive repository is totally unacceptable to us as residents of Lewiston.

We will do everything in our power to see that this never occurs.

How could you possibly consider this area with the amount of hazardous wastes we are already "home" to?

By the way, do you have any children attending the Lewiston-Porter Central School?

Cordially,

Mary Ellen Clark

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