

**Department of Energy**

Oak Ridge Operations
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831 - 8723

September 11, 1989

[REDACTED]
c/o CANI Steering Committee
Erie Co. Department of
Environment and Planning
95 Franklin Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear [REDACTED]:

REVIEW OF LETTER SUBMITTED BY DR. RESNIKOFF

The Department of Energy (DOE) has reviewed the letter sent by [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] on June 28, 1989. There are two points in the letter which dealt with the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) to which DOE would like to respond.

First, [REDACTED] indicates that the drive-in at the intersection of the Youngman Expressway and the I-190 Thruway to Niagara Falls is contaminated with materials from the Manhattan Engineering District (MED) operations conducted at the Linde plant. This is not the case according to our records. It is true that the drive-in that [REDACTED] mentions was identified by an aerial fly-over survey conducted by EG&G as an area that exhibited radiation levels slightly over naturally occurring levels. However, in a follow-up ground level walkover survey conducted by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the source of the elevated radiation levels was concluded to be naturally occurring. Apparently, the rock used in the parking areas of the drive-in contained higher than normal concentrations of naturally occurring radionuclides. This is fairly common in certain types of materials and rocks. Since the cause of the elevated radiation levels were naturally occurring, the drive-in was not added to FUSRAP.

Second, [REDACTED] concludes in his letter that the source of the contamination in the Pfohl Brothers landfill is likely the Linde plant's MED operations. Again, this does not correspond with our records. We have no indication that any waste materials from the Linde MED operations were ever transported to the Pfohl Brothers landfill. Additionally, we have been in contact with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and have even supplied them with data showing the typical isotopic mix of our radionuclides for comparison with the distribution found in the landfill. Recent conversations with the Bureau of Radiation of the NYSDEC indicated that they believe there is no basis for a connection between the Linde MED operations and the contamination in the landfill.

2

I hope this letter clarifies that there is no FUSRAP involvement or connection with these two sites as inferred by [REDACTED]. If there are any questions concerning this subject, please contact me at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Technical Services Division

cc: [REDACTED] NE-23, GTN
[REDACTED], BNI