



054187

2 . 4 6 6

Department of Energy  
Oak Ridge Operations  
P. O. Box E  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

July 14, 1988

[REDACTED]  
County of Erie, County Executive  
County Office Building  
95 Franklin Street  
Buffalo, New York 14202

Dear [REDACTED]

RESPONSE TO ERIE COUNTY CONCERNS

The following is in response to your letter dated May 9, 1988, in which you express several concerns arising from the public scoping meeting held in Tonawanda on April 26, 1988. The issues that you have raised will be addressed on a point-by-point basis as presented in your letter.

In response to the first point in your letter regarding release of the sites for unrestricted use, the overall goal of the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) is to remediate or control the contamination on the subject sites so that they can be released for unrestricted use. To accomplish this, the sites must first be surveyed (Remedial Investigation) and alternatives for the cleanup are identified and evaluated (Feasibility Study). The Feasibility Study will evaluate many factors including the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of the remedial action alternatives under consideration; your plans to revitalize the waterfront area will be taken into account during the development of the Feasibility Study for the currently contaminated sites and for any potential disposal site.

The second issue raised in your letter regards characterization of the waste currently located at the subject sites. During the 1950s, the Ashland 1 site (the former Haist property) was surveyed by the AEC and released for unrestricted use. The Linde site still operates under a state license to control the level of exposure to personnel working in the contaminated areas. Since the sites were released for use, the guidelines for such use have become more stringent. In 1980, the Linde site was designated for remedial action and in 1984, the Ashland 1 and 2 sites were designated for remedial action under FUSRAP. To determine the appropriate level of remedial action, a remedial investigation will be performed. The results of the site characterizations conducted during the remedial investigation will be documented and made available to the public. Based on historical information, we can conclude at this time that the radioactive materials in the Tonawanda area do not contain enough radioactivity to meet the definition of low-level radioactive waste. The radioactive materials are, however, expected to exceed the DOE guidelines for residual radioactivity, but be well below the guidelines for low-level radioactive waste.

[REDACTED]

In response to the third point in your letter regarding state siting requirements, the DOE and its contractors are currently in the process of reviewing the New York State siting requirements for low-level radioactive waste. These requirements will be evaluated for applicability during the development of the Feasibility Study-Environmental Impact Study.

The fourth point raised in your letter concerns the separate consideration of Seaway Industrial Landfill. Because of the small amount of radioactive material at the site, preliminary information indicates that remedial action at the site can be performed on an accelerated schedule, prior to remedial action at the other three sites. This strategy is currently being followed, and an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis is being performed so that the removal option identified in this evaluation can be implemented within the next year. The Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis is a public document and is expected to be released for public review in August 1988.

In response to the last point of your letter regarding disposal options, the Feasibility Study will examine all possible options for stabilization and disposal of the radioactive materials. These options will include both in-state and out-of-state disposal, and will consider various treatment techniques. The goal of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study for the sites in the Tonawanda area is to determine the nature and extent of the contamination and then develop a list of possible remedial action alternatives. The final remedial action alternative will be selected based on the findings of this study with input from the public.

Thank you for your interest and concern in this matter. If you have any other questions please contact [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]

Sincerely, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Technical Services Division

cc: [REDACTED], NYSDEC  
[REDACTED], Town of Tonawanda  
Legislator L. Lenihan  
Legislator C. Swanick  
T. Tonawanda, Environmental Management Council

[REDACTED]  
ANL

[REDACTED], Chairman NYS commission