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Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

February 9, 1996

Chairman
Commission for Conservation
of the Environment
Town of Tonawanda
2919 Delaware Avenue
Kenmore, New York 14217

Dear

Thank you for your January 10, 1996, letter regarding remediation activities at the Department of Energy Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program's Tonawanda site. I have enclosed a response to the specific topics raised in your letter.

On October 23, 1995, the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, personally toured the Tonawanda site and met with you and members of the Coalition Against Nuclear Materials In Tonawanda, as well as other interested stakeholders. The Department of Energy feels s visit was successful and a positive step toward reaching a long-term management strategy for the Tonawanda site. We look forward to continued interactions with the Tonawanda community to formulate a long-term strategy by December of 1996.

The Department is now performing interim actions at the Praxair facility, and we believe this demonstrates our commitment to address the Tonawanda stakeholders' most urgent needs. We are pleased to inform you that the decontamination activities are progressing safely and on schedule.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Tonawanda site. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Environmental Restoration

4.3.18.2

Enclosure



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Enclosure

Response to [REDACTED]

1. Treatment activities at the Tonawanda Site

Although active soil treatment studies have been concluded, the Department of Energy will continue to explore technologies that could be applied to remediating the Tonawanda site.

2. Technical Assistance Program Fund

The Department is working with the Citizens Against Nuclear materials In Tonawanda (CANIT) in selecting a qualified consultant using Technical Assistance Program (TAP) funds. We believe the TAP program has, in the past, assisted in the productive dialogue the Department and CANIT have built. We look forward to continued success of this program.

3. Interim actions plans and progress

The Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis for the Praxair facility demolition and pile removal interim actions was released for public review January 29, 1996. Ongoing decontamination activities at Praxair are progressing safely and on schedule.

4. Planning for complete site remediation

The commitment made by Assistant Secretary Grumbly on his October 23, 1995, visit to Tonawanda was as follows: By December 1996, the Department, with the community, would develop a long-term strategy for addressing the Tonawanda site. The strategy would be robust enough to support a funding request for the fiscal year 1998 and outyear budget cycles. The Tonawanda site manager, Mr. Ron Kirk, is working with CANIT and community members in developing the strategy.

5. Removal and disposal of Tonawanda wastes off site

The Department's position is to study all long-term management alternatives for the Tonawanda site. You have noted that the source of this commitment was contained in an August 1, 1994, letter from Town of Tonawanda Supervisor Carl Calabrese. The Department clarified this issue in a November 7, 1994, response to Supervisor Calabrese. I have enclosed the Department's November 7, 1994, letter for your information.

6. Department Headquarters interaction in Tonawanda

The Department's Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program will continue to place the Tonawanda site among its highest priorities. As such, Headquarters management level attention toward Tonawanda activities is necessary on occasion. Mr. Ron Kirk is always available to discuss any issues and concerns you or any other stakeholder may have.