

7. 10/08 14:03 P02 \*

Ms. Lesley Dawson  
Rockaway Township Environmental Commission  
65 Mt. Hope Road  
Rockaway, NJ 07866

Dear Ms. Dawson:

This is in response to your letter about the Remedial Investigation/  
Feasibility Study for the Radiation Technology site.

With regard to your concern about evaluating water quality, both on-site and  
off-site wells will be sampled. We will use wells placed in both shallow  
and deep water zones and will monitor water in an underground mine tunnel.  
Results of the sampling will indicate whether or not the water is potable,  
and will also aid in determining the source or sources of ground water  
contamination.

With regard to your concern about solid waste residues that could affect the  
environment, the site will be examined for both surface and subsurface  
waste, contained and uncontained. These explorations will be conducted in  
two phases. Phase I will focus on specific areas already targeted for soil  
borings and monitoring wells. Phase II will involve further exploration of  
areas of concern uncovered in Phase I and will also provide the opportunity  
to expand the study if needed.

Finally, with regard to your concern about the effect of radiation on the  
surrounding areas, the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is

B/20

-2-

currently working with the licensee in exploratory excavation of the area for the purpose of 1) characterizing the nature and extent of buried material, 2) characterizing the effect, if any, of such burials on public health and safety, and 3) determining whether such burials constitute violations of existing or previous regulations relative to the disposition of radioactive materials. (The Code of Federal Regulations permitted the disposal of low level waste by burial in soil prior to January ~~1987.~~

1981.

Preliminary evaluation indicates that the buried radioactive material at this site does not appear to have an effect on public health and safety. Samples taken from wells near the site of the burials have not indicated any radioactive contamination of well water. Soil samples in the immediate area *of the exploratory excavation* have revealed trace levels of radioactivity. Additional <sup>soil</sup> samples ~~of the~~ burial collected at various locations on the site have levels of radiation that are indistinguishable from background levels. Such information suggests that whatever radioactive material may exist on site, has remained generally contained and has not migrated.

I hope this information is helpful to you. As the project progresses, we will be happy to send copies of interim reports to you. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Anthony J. Farro