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October 1, 2002

Ms. Pamela Thompson, Project Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Weldon Spring Site Remedial Action Project
St. Charles, Mo. 63304

RE: Five-Year Review

Dear Ms. Thompson:

In recent Department of Energy (DOE) publications, the latest draft Long-Term Stewardship Plan (LTSP) and agency guidance development meetings, I have noted DOE's continued reference to the second five-year review for the site having been completed. While DOE can claim the review was performed, we do not consider the review complete.

In my letter to you, dated January 14, 2002, I asked for a response to several deficiencies noted in the DOE review. I was verbally advised that DOE would respond, but it might take some time due to other priority issues. It has now been over eight months with nothing in sight other than the flawed claims noted above. This is a priority issue whose time has come.

DOE performed this review using DRAFT Environmental Protection Agency guidance which had most but not all of the same level of detail as contained in the current final document. While it appears that DOE will not be considering revisiting the September 2001, review, in accordance with current guidance, it is reasonable to expect a minimum response that says the next report will address the deficiencies noted by this office. I cannot overstress the fact that the five-year review process is one of the cornerstone safeguards for successful execution of the LTSP.

Needless to say, I am disappointed that a revised review will not be made. This only serves to short change the state's and the public's role in the periodic review process. An even more disturbing recent comment, from a DOE headquarter official, was that the five year review reports will be unnecessary because sufficient monitoring by DOE will be in place. This would be contradictory to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as the Five-Year Review is a primary document.

Having said that, I am guardedly optimistic that DOE will meet its obligation to perform an acceptable review in the future.

Any comment or response to this or the January 14, 2002, review letter would be appreciated. If you want to discuss this, please contact me at (573) 751-6838 or have written comments sent to P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102.

Sincerely,

HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM

Larry V. Erickson

Larry V. Erickson, P.E.
Chief-DOE Unit, Federal Facilities Section
Air and Land Protection Division

LE:dd

c: Mr. Dan Wall, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region VII
Weldon Spring Citizens Commission
Mr. Mike Duvall, St. Charles County