

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

INDIANAPOLIS

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OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 22, 1990

TO: Kathy Prosser
CommissionerTHRU: Tom Linson TL 2/27
Bruce Palin
Tom RarickFROM: James M. Hunt *JM 2/23*
Solid and Hazardous Waste ManagementSUBJECT: Site Remediation
Cabot Corporation
Kokomo, Howard County

On February 15, 1989, Mr. Jeff Symmes, West Lafayette, met with Messrs. Bruce Palin and Lewis Schoenberger concerning the above mentioned facility. (Mr. Symmes is a member of several Indiana environmental activist organizations.) Mr. Symmes was concerned about the excavation and storage of numerous drums of unknown waste material from the open dump which had existed at the Cabot Corporation. Mr. Symmes has also contacted Congressman Jim Jontz's office concerning this site.

As a result of this meeting Mr. Schoenberger contacted Messrs. Howard Horne, Site Superintendent (Bechtel Corporation); Dave Frease, Project Manager (Bechtel Corporation); and Don Robinson (Cabot Corporation); to inquire about the status of the voluntary clean-up at this facility. Mr. Robinson informed Mr. Schoenberger that approximately 200 drums of unknown waste materials have been exhumed from the disposal area. Among these drums were four (4) drums of hazardous waste (characteristically hazardous), one (1) drum of mixed hazardous and radioactive waste (EP toxic for lead with significant concentrations of uranium 234 and 238), and four (4) drums of depleted uranium-molybdenum alloy (turnings from machining nose cones for Posidon missiles). The four (4) drums of hazardous waste have already been shipped off site for disposal. All of the other drums are still on site.

This action has been taken by Cabot Corporation as a voluntary clean-up. All of the waste deposited on site was placed there prior to RCRA enactment. As such, this clean-up activity has not been reviewed or commented on by IDEM staff.

It is my opinion that this Department may need to re-evaluate the manner in which the clean-up of this facility is currently being evaluated (or not evaluated as the case may be). Although the Nuclear Regulation Commission (NRC), Region 3, in Chicago has been notified of the situation, they have not informed us of the action they may take as a result of these findings (this facility has held several NRC and Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) permits in the past that allowed them to act as a transfer facility for "fixed gauges" that contained radioactive isotopes).

Kathy Prosser
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This Department may have to coordinate its evaluation of the hazardous waste clean-up activities of this site with potential NRC concerns for the materials found in the quarry. Hence, I am asking you to provide guidance on how you would like this Department to address the activities currently being carried out at this site. It is suggested that the Office of Environmental Response's Project Management Branch may be the most appropriate department to evaluate the clean-up.

LRS/kaw

cc: Mr. James Hunt
Ms. Jayne Browning
Ms. Jackie Strecker