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Superfund Records Center
SITE: Union Chemical
BREAK: 31
OTHER: 53 1519



SDMS DocID 531519

June 17, 1988

RECEIVED
JUN 23 88
ME & VT WASTE
MANAGEMENT BRANCH

Ms. Cynthia Kuhns
State of Maine
Department of Environmental
Protection
State House
Station 17
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Union Chemical Site: Request for Drinking Water

Dear Cynthia:

This is in response to your letter of April 8, 1988 in which, on behalf of the Department of Environmental Protection, you requested that the Settling Parties provide supplemental drinking water to those residents in the vicinity of the Union Chemical Site shown to be "at risk" because of age or medical complications.

Recently, this matter was addressed by the Union Chemical Site Steering Committee, a body comprised of representatives of several of the large volume contributors and several de minimis parties. The Committee has decided not to provide supplemental drinking water at this time. The Committee's decision is based upon the fact that the residential wells near the vicinity do not show any present threat of a human health hazard resulting from the conditions at the Site. As you know, this is a conclusion with which DEP, EPA and the Agency of Toxic Substances and Disease Registry concur. We note that the residential well sample analysis has generally found these wells to be free of chemical contamination and that when certain chemicals sporadically have been found in a handful of these wells, those results have indicated trace levels of contaminants in locations which appear to be inconsistent with expected ground water pathways emanating from the Site.

BURNS & LEVINSON

Ms. Cynthia Kuhns
June 17, 1988
Page 2

Indeed, in light of the available data, if we were to offer drinking water to some of the residents in the area, the result may be to raise unwarranted fears within the community.

We believe that the Settling Parties and the Trustees of the Union Chemical Site Trust have acted cooperatively and in complete good faith since settlement negotiations commenced with EPA and DEP last summer. We are fully committed to conducting a Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study which will analyze the conditions at the Site and make recommendations for appropriate remedial action. As you know, on several occasions, representatives of the Steering Committee and the Trustees have met with the Selectmen, the Town's counsel and representatives of the Concerned Citizens of Hope privately and at public hearings to listen to their concerns about the Site. We expect that this dialogue will continue to all parties' benefit.

We trust that you will understand the Settling Parties' position on the drinking water issue and we hope that this response does not strike a discordant note within DEP or with the residents of South Hope. We look forward to continue to meet and work with EPA, DEP and the residents of South Hope as our work at the Site continues.

Very truly yours,

UNION CHEMICAL SITE
STEERING COMMITTEE

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