



**Department of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

March 31, 2000

IA. 02-5

Major General Hans A. Van Winkle  
Director of Civil Works  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Department of the Army  
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000

Dear General Van Winkle:

I am writing to you to notify you that the former Iowa Army Ammunition Plant is eligible for the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). The former Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) used this site for early atomic energy development, including the production and assembly of nuclear weapons. Usage of this facility ended during the 1970s.

The AEC facility was located on the Army's Iowa Army Ammunition Plant (also known as the Burlington Ordnance Plant or the Iowa Ordnance Plant) near Burlington, Iowa. Known activities included the fabrication of explosives for nuclear weapons, disposal of excess explosives, and assembly of nuclear weapons. Possible activities included the fabrication of other weapons components and developmental activities.

A number of stakeholders have expressed concern over this facility, including several elected officials, and Secretary Richardson has visited the facility and spoken with stakeholders. The contaminants of concern from AEC activities might include industrial chemicals (explosives, explosive residues, metals, beryllium, solvents, fuel oil, acids, bases, etc.) and radioactive substances (e.g., depleted uranium, enriched uranium, plutonium, americium, tritium, and other radionuclides).

Section III.D.1. of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) regarding the program administration and execution of FUSRAP provides that the Department:

- a. Shall perform historical research and provide a FUSRAP eligibility determination, with historical references, as to whether a site was used for activities which supported the Nation's early atomic energy program.

- b. Shall provide COE with the determination, a description of the type of processes involved in the historical activities at the site, the geographic boundaries of those activities (as reflected by documentation available to DOE), and the potential radioactive and/or chemical contaminants at the site; and
- c. Shall maintain records of determination of eligibility and other files, documents, and records associated with the site.

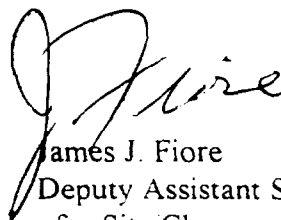
In accordance with the MOU, DOE has performed historical research regarding the former AEC's activities at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, located near Burlington, Iowa, and has concluded that this site was used for activities which supported the Nation's early atomic energy program. A large number of historical references and other documentation supporting this conclusion have been previously supplied to the Army staff working on the cleanup of the site. At Secretary Richardson's direction, DOE will conduct a radiological survey at the appropriate portions of the facility, and my staff will provide a copy of the survey report to your staff.

Accordingly, the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant would be eligible for inclusion in FUSRAP if the Corps determines, under Section III.D.2 of the MOU, that response action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response,

Compensation, and Liability Act is required to address FUSRAP-related contamination at the sites.

Please call me if you would like to discuss this issue or if you would like further information related to the sites.

Sincerely,



James J. Fiore  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Site Closure

bcc: C. Young, BAH  
K. Chaney, EM-34  
S. H. V. G. 51

Distribution:  
EM-30/FOR (2)  
EM-30/GTN (2)  
EM-31/GTN (1)  
Williams Reader  
EM2000-\_\_\_\_\_  
Hevner Suspense  
White Suspense

EM-31:AWilliams:dlg:903-8148:3/15/00:q:alexander\van winkle.wpd

Hevner Review: \_\_\_\_\_  
White Review: MW 3/20/00

File Code: \_\_\_\_\_

EM-31  
Murphy  
3/1/00

EM-34  
Chaney  
for 3/17/00 RCF

EM-30  
Fiore  
4/1/00

M/R: Note the 1987 letter that referred this site to DOD.

GC  
Dennison  
3/ /00

see attached