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**Department of Energy**

Oak Ridge Operations Office
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831— 8723



LTSM012610

April 29, 1996

Mr. James Schaus
Vice President
Finance and Administration
Niagara Cold Drawn Corporation
110 Hopkins Street
P.O. Box 399
Buffalo, New York 14240

Dear Mr. Schaus:

BLISS AND LAUGHLIN SITE - DELAYING REMOVAL ACTION FOR 1997

This letter is to inform you that the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) is delaying Fiscal Year 1997 planned removal of the residual radioactive material at the former Bliss and Laughlin facility. The action is being taken based on our telephone conversation on April 2, during which you indicated the facility would be inaccessible because of current business needs.

A radiological survey of the facility was performed by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education in March 1992. The survey determined that residual radioactive material above applicable guidelines is present at the facility. A subsequent characterization of the facility completed by Bechtel National, Inc. in February 1995, confirmed the presence of radioactive material in the former special finishing area. Accessibility to the facility is needed to complete the removal of the material. It is my understanding, based on our conversations, that your current business needs could not support a cleanup schedule that involved access to the special finishing area any earlier than 1998.

The radioactivity identified during both surveys is currently fixed to the floor and overhead structural members. Because it is not readily transferable, there is no significant risk to workers or members of the general public. However, any activity involving renovation of the affected surfaces, such as grinding, sanding, or chipping, could spread the material or expose workers to airborne radioactively contaminated dust. For this reason, we strongly recommend that no building renovation work in those areas be conducted without taking the proper precautions.

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Mr. James Schaus

2

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We have tentatively rescheduled the cleanup for Fiscal Year 1998. I will confirm the accessibility of the facility with you when we start our planning for that year. If, in the interim, the facility becomes accessible, we can evaluate our program at that time to determine if the cleanup can be scheduled earlier. I cannot, however, insure that program priorities and funding will allow for a rescheduling of the work once it is removed from the fiscal year plan. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (423) 576-7477.

Sincerely,

Ronald E. Kirk

Ronald E. Kirk, Site Manager
Former Sites Restoration Division

cc: Mr. Robert Hargrove, EPA, Region II
Dr. Paul Merges, NYDEC
Mr. William Condon, NYDOH
Mr. John Patterson, DOE-HQ
Mr. Richard Tobe, ECDEP

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