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Department of Energy

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



LTSM012612

June 8, 1995

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**

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 1995 planned removal of the residual radioactive material at the former Bliss and Laughlin facility. The action is being taken because of the inaccessibility of the facility resulting from 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 in concentrations above DOE guidelines was 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 1997.

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

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We have tentatively rescheduled the cleanup for Fiscal Year 1997. 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. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (615) 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