2/4/04
69 FR 5374
(10)

From: LES_EIS
To: Doris Mendiola
Date: 2/18/04 4:59PM
Subject: LES Comment 10: Impact of LES on LEA County, New Mexico

>>> "PHILLIP BARR" <pharb2@msn.com> 02/13/04 10:40AM >>>

1. We had a inspection group from Lea county go to the Netherlands. They looked over a Urenco plant there and have been telling us ever since how safe and pretty everything was..
They didn't find out the waste from the the Almelo plant goes to the Russian federation and they didn't tell the people of Lea County. Neither did LES.
Waste storage and the fact that these containers do leak sometimes is a big problem with an operation like this. There also has to be cleanup at the end of the plants life..Its very expensive. (See paducah, ky-It's a superfund cleanup site-http://www.epa.gov/region4/waste/npl/nplky/paducaky.htm.
I asked LES what the life expectancy of the waste containers were. They told me that information wasn't available.
I asked one of the county team who went to Almelo the same question-she told me the containers were made out of lead, how could they leak?

2. Air emissions- British Nuclear Fuels Limited- (Urenco (LES) partner). In the UK, The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) issued a warning in the UK concerning Pigeons in a 10 mile radius around their plant at Sellafield in 1998. I understand this advisory is still in effect. (see below)
If pigeons could be contaminated in the UK. and be unsafe to eat, its plausible the dove and quail could be contaminated here also. We have dove and quail hunters in this area. The plant site is 19.5 highway miles south of Hobbs, possibly 17 as the crow flies. In this area we have high winds that blow mainly from the south. considering this I believe the impact zone for LES should be extended 25 miles. There is one rural community that would live downwind of this plant. Hobbs would be downwind also.

(As I understand it MAFF is now called Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
http://www.defra.gov.uk/
3. I have asked the DOE twice where they would take the waste if required by law. I received no answer. If the DOE can take this waste, why don't they reply as to where they can put it?.
4. Having a nuclear waste dump locally will drive down property values in the area.
5. All these statements about where LES waste might go, I believe is an unethical and desperate attempt to get a license
6. Based on statements from LES , I believe their plant would be harmful to the environment and the people of this area.

Phillip Barr
Lea County

==========1==========

----- Original Message -----
From: WISE Amsterdam
To:
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2004 1:34 PM
Subject: Re: Russia and depleted uranium re-enrichment

Dear Phillip,

Yes, you are right. Depleted uranium from the Almelo (NL) and

E-RIDS-ADM-03
Add = M. Johnson (MCJ)
M. Wong (MCW)

Template = ADM-013

Gronau (FRG) plants of Urenco is sent to Russia fro re-enrichment. It concerns several thousands of tons. Urenco Almelo for instance has a storage limit of 50,000 MT of depleted uranium and signed a contract with Russia to re-enrich a substantial part of it. Part of the deal is that no uranium leftovers are returned to Holland. It is attractive for Urenco as otherwise it would have to send the depleted uranium to a special waste storage facility in Holland (which would be more expensive than processing it in Russia). Re-enriched uranium (to levels of fissionable uranium-235 equal to natural uranium) is sent to Holland and will be used in the Almelo enrichment plant.

www.antenna.nl/wise/uranium/ediss.html#UREUPGR
Contains more details about depleted uranium sent by Urenco to Russia.

Please contact us if you have further questions.

yours,
Robert Jan van den Berg

> I heard Urenco shipped its waste from its enrichment plant in Amelo, =
> Netherlands to some place in the Russian Federation. Is this true? If so =
> could you give me a link to the info.
>
> LES , Urenco partner wants to build an enrichment plant in New Mexico. =
> Im researching the company.
> >
> PhilliP Barr
> New Mexico
>
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> <DIV>I don=92t like them so far.</DIV>
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> <DIV>New Mexico</DIV>
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New on the WISE Web Site; The Smiling Sun Web Shop
at http://www.antenna.nl/wise/shop/index.html

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==========2==========

98/98 13 March 1998

RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION IN FERAL PIGEONS AROUND SELLAFIELD
The results of independent monitoring carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on pigeons in the Sellafield area are published on the internet today.

Following the recent discovery of elevated levels of radioactive contamination in feral pigeons close to British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) Sellafield, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food advised local residents on 14 February 1998 not to handle, slaughter or consume any pigeons found within a ten mile radius of the site. The advice was based on provisional monitoring undertaken by BNFL. MAFF's results confirm the advice issued was appropriate.

Feral pigeons are unlikely to enter the human food chain. A survey of traders in the area confirmed there is no pigeon meat for sale.

Food Safety Minister Mr Rooker said today:

"Although it is unlikely that any affected feral pigeons are being eaten, we took precautionary action and advised against eating the birds as soon as the significance of the contamination levels came to light.

Our own comprehensive monitoring, published today on the internet, confirms that levels of radioactivity are significant in the birds. The full publication demonstrates our commitment to both food safety and openness."

MAFF has been monitoring contamination levels in foodstuffs produced around Sellafield, and other nuclear sites, for ten years. This has confirmed that other foodstuffs produced in this area are safe to eat.

Notes for Editors

1. MAFF issued precautionary advice on 14 February 1998 advising local residents not to handle, slaughter or consume any pigeons within a ten mile radius of the site. This advice was based on BNFL's provisional results of analysis and still applies at present.

2. The principal radionuclide concerned is caesium-137. This is formed as a by-product of the fission process. The source of the contamination on site is currently being investigated by the Environment Agency and the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

3. MAFF monitoring to date indicates levels of radioactive caesium of up to 50,000 Bq/kg in the breast meat of pigeons. This indicates that consumption of the breast meat of about 20 birds would give a radiation dose of 1 mSv. The public dose limit is 1 mSv/year. However, the most affected birds are feral and racing pigeons and therefore unlikely to enter the human food chain. More details of MAFF monitoring have been published on this site.

4. MAFF undertakes a comprehensive programme of monitoring around Sellafield and other nuclear sites. The most recent results of this programme have been published in Radioactivity in Food and the Environment, 1996, published in September 1997.

5. Responsibility for the regulation of radioactive discharges lies with the Environment Agency while on-site worker safety is the responsibility of the HSE's Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

END
