

November 2, 1999

Disposition of LEHR Site Wastewater Treatment Radioactive Sludge

Julie Roth
DSCSOC

Dear Julie,

In connection with Kathy Setian's request for review of issues of concern to DSCSOC, one of the issues that is still of significant concern in public health and environmental protection associated with UCD's former operations of the LEHR site is the disposition of the sludges that were generated in the LEHR wastewater treatment plant facilities. As you know, as part of decommissioning of the LEHR operations, a sludge hauling tank truck was cut up and hauled to Hanford, Washington for burial. This approach was adopted since it was evidently sufficiently radioactive to be considered a public health hazard.

When I first became involved with DSCSOC four and a half years ago, I asked about the disposition of the sludges that the tank truck used to haul. This is an issue that has been of concern to the public for some time. As you may remember, at a UCD LEHR meeting several years ago a member of the public asked Julie McNeil about the disposal location of the sludges. Her response was that while the UCD L. Vanderhoef administration does not know where they disposed of those sludges, they were not placed in UCD Landfill No. 4 (the west landfill located off of Pedrick Road). At RPM meetings, DSCSOC has made several requests of UCD for information on the disposition of these sludges, thus far, this matter has not been adequately/reliably addressed.

If the tank truck that was used to haul the sludge was sufficiently radioactive to merit the great expense of cutting it up and hauling it for burial as a radioactive waste out of state, then there must be some sludge someplace which was highly radioactive.

I believe that DSCSOC should make a formal request of the RPMs to require that UCD provide an in depth, reliable, written, documented discussion of where the LEHR site wastewater treatment radioactive sludges were deposited. UCD L. Vanderhoef administration should no longer be allowed to make cursory, off the cuff comments about where they were not deposited as satisfactorily addressing the issues of concern to the public.

If necessary, and I believe this will be the case, a private detective should be hired, who would work for the RPMs with DSCSOC review, to do an in depth investigation of these issues. If UCD L. Vanderhoef continues to be uncooperative in this matter, it may be necessary for DSCSOC to turn this matter over to the Solano and Yolo County District Attorney's for their action.

Please contact me if you have questions about this matter.

G. Fred Lee