

**Davis South Campus Superfund Oversight Committee**

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**April 13, 2001**

**The Honorable Spencer Abraham  
Secretary, Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585**

**Dear Secretary Abraham:**

**The Davis South Campus Superfund Oversight Committee (DSCSOC) is the US EPA Technical Advisor Group for the UC Davis/Department of Energy (UCD/DOE) Laboratory for Energy-Related Health Research (LEHR) Superfund site located on the UC Davis campus in Davis, California. DSCSOC represents the Davis citizens affected by the Superfund site. It has come to our attention that the proposed DOE budget threatens our health and environment because of budget cuts to the Environmental Management's cleanup programs. We understand that DOE/OAK is threatened with a 25% cut in its cleanup program budget and this decrease will impact the cleanup currently taking place at the LEHR site.**

**DSCSOC has worked with the Remedial Project Managers at the site, (US EPA, CA Dept. of Health Services, Department of Toxic Substance Control and Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board) and the Responsible Parties, (DOE and UCD) to cleanup the LEHR site since it was listed on the National Priority List in 1995. We have detailed knowledge of the contamination at the site, the challenges to the cleanup that exist, and the health and environmental risks to the Davis community. Any cuts in DOE/OAK LEHR site cleanup program will delay the cleanup program, reduce the size and scope of DOE's commitments, and impact on the health and environmental risk to this community. DSCSOC finds the cuts in the Environmental Management cleanup program totally unacceptable and the cuts in the DOE/OAK cleanup budget particularly severe. DOE is legally and morally obligated to meet its cleanup commitments at LEHR in a highly expeditious manner.**

**The Department of Energy must ensure that contamination as a result of the Cold War's legacy is cleaned up and that citizens are no longer at risk. DOE's contamination at the LEHR site impacts our water resources, environment and health and the site's cleanup must not be sacrificed for budget concerns. Citizens**

**threatened with contaminated drinking water, health and environmental risks cannot be asked to wait because DOE prefers to spend its money on other programs. The Davis community has already waited long enough.**

**We urge you as Secretary of Energy to honor DOE's legal and moral obligations to cleanup its contamination. We urge you, Secretary Abraham, to re-submit DOE's Environmental Management budget proposal so that DOE will meet and honor its obligation to cleanup contaminated sites. We urge you to consider the impacts upon the Davis community. We want to live without fear of DOE's contamination.**

**Sincerely,**

**Julie Roth  
Executive Director**

**cc: Mitchell D. Daniels, Jr., Director, Office of management and Budget  
U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein  
U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer  
Congressional Representative Doug Ose  
Dr. Carolyn Huntoon, Asst. Secretary for Environmental Mgnt.**