

Davis South Campus Superfund Oversight Committee

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May 19, 2001

US Senator Dianne Feinstein

331 Hart Senate Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein,

The Davis South Campus Superfund Oversight Committee (DSCSOC) is a group of affected Davis citizens at the UC Davis and the Department of Energy's Laboratory of Energy-Related Health (LEHR) Superfund site on the UC Davis campus. DSCSOC received an US EPA Technical Advisor Grant to oversee the LEHR site on behalf of the Davis citizens. Members volunteer their time and expenses and DSCSOC dedicates its grant funds to its technical advisor so that the Davis community will receive the maximum benefit from its oversight activities.

DSCSOC has worked with the Remedial Project Managers (US EPA, CA Dept. of Health Services, Dept. of Toxic Substance Control and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board) and the Responsible Parties (UC Davis and the Dept. of Energy) to cleanup the LEHR site since it was listed on the National Priority List (a list for the nation's worst superfund sites) in 1995. We have detailed knowledge of the contamination at the site, the cleanup challenges that exists and the health and environmental risks to the Davis community.

DSCSOC is concerned that DOE will not meet its milestones as outlined in the Federal Facilities Agreement due to the reduction in the Environmental Management (EM) budget for 2002. In spite of budget cuts in recent years, the DOE Oakland office has met its milestones by working smarter and more efficiently, but now the proposed EM budget

cuts threaten the environmental restoration programs. DOE cannot assure us that funds pledged to the LEHR site will not be reallocated.

DOE has completed several waste removal actions at the LEHR site in the past several years. As a result, there is a significant amount of low-level radioactive waste stored onsite waiting for proper disposal. DSCSOC is concerned that the EM budget cuts will delay disposal of the stockpiled wastes and will delay removal actions in progress. Delays in DOE's cleanup actions threaten UC Davis' cleanup actions that are dependent on data inputs from DOE and threaten UC Davis' ability to finish its work at the site. Any delay in DOE or UCD's removal actions threatens to impact the Davis community's health and environment.

Members of DSCSOC have donated countless hours of their time over many years working to protect the Davis community from adverse impacts from the LEHR site. Our efforts could now be undermined by EM budget cuts. We strongly urge you not to support the proposed EM budget cuts that threaten human health, the environment, the size and scope of cleanups actions and their impacts on individual facilities and communities. We urge you to be mindful of DOE's moral and legal obligations to clean up its contamination. We ask that you work to restore adequate funding to the DOE budget for the EM cleanup programs.

If you have any questions regarding DSCSOC and its concerns about the DOE budget cuts, I invite you to contact me.

Sincerely,

**Julie Roth
Executive Director**