Message

From: Cheryn Robles [crobles@nola.gov]
Sent: 2/26/2019 1:50:46 PM
To: mark.scheuer@nnma.doe.gov
CC: Joseph W. Threat Sr [jwthreatsr@nola.gov]; Josh W. Hartley [jwhartley@nola.gov]; Keith J. LaGrange [Keith.LaGrange@nola.gov]; Sarah McLaughlin Porteous [snmclaughlin@nola.gov]
Subject: Call from City of New Orleans re: Ra26 clean up site
Attachments: Radium 226 Source Recover Presentation 20190119 NOLA.pdf; AAR GWS Report 2019_0111.pdf; AAR Status and Proposal to HR 2019_1226.pdf; Lowerline Phase II Proposal.pdf

Mark,

Thanks again for your time on Friday. As Joe and I mentioned on the phone, a Radium 226 source was discovered during the DOE radiation sweep in 2013, prior to New Orleans hosting the Super Bowl. No immediate threat to the public was found at that time.

The City hired a contractor with licenses for decontamination and decommissioning to remove the radium. The work scope was coordinated with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. During excavation we found that the magnitude of the material exceeded the approved scope of work and so operations were stopped and equipment decontaminated.

We did not find a source of the radium but the localized rate of contaminated soil increased from 1.5mR/hr to 10,000 mR/hr. The contamination appears bound to the soil.

A Gamma Walkover Survey was performed on Dec. 3, 2018 and the contamination site, which we originally thought would only need to be about 3 ft square is now actually two and a half blocks (see attached photos and images on slides 28 and 29 of the attached document.)

We're looking for guidance from DOE as the contamination may have migrated below 30 inches in depth, there was groundwater present in the excavation and New Orleans has a low water table.

1. Upon reviewing the attached proposal for Phase 2 operations, is the proposal recommendation adequate to safely secure the site?
2. Are there any additional reporting mechanisms necessary that we should plan to complete?
3. Does DOE have access to a funding source which could help offset the cost of the clean up?

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