




Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Kansas City Site Office
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April 24, 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR: Thad T. Konopnicki
Associate Administrator for Infrastructure
and Environment, NA-50

FROM: Mark L. Holecek 
Acting Manager, KCSO

SUBJECT: Identifying a Storage Facility for Elemental Mercury

FILE No: 1010E1

Your memorandum dated April 2, 2009, Identifying a Storage Facility for Elemental Mercury, provided a request from the Office of Environmental Management for information regarding whether the Kansas City Plant has any facilities or plans for future facilities suitable for the long-term storage of elemental mercury. The Bannister Federal Complex, the present location of the Kansas City Plant (KCP) in Kansas City, Missouri, should be considered a potential large scale storage facility in any subsequent National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis to be conducted under the auspices of the Mercury Export Ban Act.

The Kansas City Plant, under the custody and control of the NNSA, has an initial storage capacity of approximately 130,000 to 150,000 square feet of contiguous floor space that was previously used for warehousing and logistics operations. This presently available floor space also contains some office space and existing utilities in good condition, and there is additional adjacent floor space that could easily be converted to accommodate any future needs for expansion. The KCP is located in a geologically stable area, the plant structural system has been seismically upgraded, and a flood wall has been installed to protect the Bannister Federal Complex from a 500-year flood event. The KCP currently operates as a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) 90-day storage facility through a Hazardous Waste Management Facility Permit issued by the State of Missouri.

Under the Kansas City Responsive Infrastructure Manufacturing and Sourcing (KCRIMS) project, the NNSA has proposed to relocate the KCP to a new leased facility located approximately eight miles south of the Bannister Federal Complex. This relocation of KCP operations is scheduled to begin in the first calendar quarter of 2011, and the existing property will be declared excess to NNSA needs. Relocation to the new leased facility is scheduled to be completed by the first calendar quarter of 2013. Once this relocation has been completed, a significant amount of additional floor space would be available that could be modified to accommodate this new DOE mission.

The Kansas City Plant presently stores a quantity of a liquid alloy of mercury that is commercially used for its reduced melting point. For both environmental protection and practical reasons, it might be advantageous to consider including other liquid alloys of mercury within the mission of the proposed elemental mercury storage facility, wherever it may be located.

If you have any questions concerning this response or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact David Caughey, of my staff, at (816) 997-3449 or by email at David.Caughey@mnsa.doe.gov.

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