SCOPE SENT TO EPA + STATE: 24 AUG 95

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
841 Chestnut Building
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

SUBJECT: Corrective Measures Yellow Water Reservoir and Barren Area Caps

DATE: 9-6-95

FROM: Bill Arguto

TO: Kevin Jones

Kevin:

As discussed the other day over the phone, the EPA concurs with the corrective actions as described in the scope of work except for the use of Diazinon to control grubs and worms that may be a food source for the borrowing animals. As we discussed, these borrowing animals may jeopardize the integrity of the cap over the long term and preventative measures may be warranted.

I talked to a EPA biologist, Mark Springer, about the problem on Sept. 5, 1995. The highlights of the conversation were:

- He did not feel that killing the grubs would be a long term solution

- He felt the more serious threat to the caps would probably be from the woodchucks because they will borrow deep and the impermeable membrane would not deter their digging, in fact he stated that a woodchuck might prefer to be on the other side of the membrane to keep their nests dry. He also said that they seem to prefer sloped areas.

- One of his suggestions was to frequently mow the area to reduce the food supply and make them more susceptible to predators.

- Mr. Springer felt that moles would cause only surface damage to the caps since they tend to feed from grubs that are close to the surface and there nests are typically only two feet deep.

- He also stated that they were trying to develop some natural plantings that would discourage moles and woodchucks. He offered to visit the site if we needed additional help. He suggested sending him pictures of the damage and the size of the caps in question.

- He also recommended that the most effective method of control, especially if the integrity of the caps are being jeopardized, was to trap or hunt the animals.

I will gladly coordinate Mr. Springer's assistance in this matter if you his feel expertise may help in a long term solution. I concur with your recommendations to correct the noted deficiencies as outlined in the scope of work except for the Diazinon. We may be able to develop permanent solution for the borrowing animals if it continues to be highlighted as a problem in the cap inspections. Please call if you have any questions?