



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

August 27, 2009

Mr. R. D. Maynard, Chair
Idaho National Laboratory Site
Environmental Management Citizens Advisory Board
Portage, Inc.
1075 South Utah Avenue, Suite 200
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402

Dear Mr. Maynard:

This is in response to your July 9, 2009, letter on the recycling and reuse of excess metals and other materials. We appreciate the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board's (EM SSAB) continued interest, support, and efforts to provide recommendations that will further waste minimization at the EM sites.

The Department of Energy (DOE) has specific policies that establish sound environmental stewardship practices to be achieved by all its sites. In particular, DOE Order 450.1A, *Environmental Protection Program*, sets forth sustainable practices for enhancing environmental, energy, and transportation management performance. They include prevention, reduction, reuse, and recycling of waste streams generated at sites; reduction or elimination of the acquisition, use, and release of toxic and hazardous chemicals and materials while maximizing the acquisition and use of environmentally preferable products; and reduction of environmental resource degradation and depletion through post-consumer material recycling. As of June 30, 2009, nearly all DOE sites had declared their Environmental Protection Programs in place and operational. It is through these programs that DOE sites are practicing environmental stewardship, including recycling, reclamation, and reuse.

DOE sites have departments and individuals with responsibilities for implementing their Environmental Protection Programs. They evaluate reuse and recycling options for non-contaminated material generated from cleanup activities. A diverse range of factors affect the feasibility of DOE-wide metals recycling and reuse efforts. They include regulatory impacts and approvals, stakeholder input, industry concerns including market price and conditions, environmental impacts, and DOE policy, which prohibits the unrestricted release of any contaminated metal as you noted. These restrictions reflect the importance of controlling how such materials might be processed and/or used once out of DOE possession.

As a notable example of our efforts with reuse, on July 21, 2009, DOE issued a draft Request for Proposals for Nickel Sales Agreement of 15,300 tons of radioactively-contaminated nickel located at the East Tennessee Technology Park, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, Paducah, Kentucky.

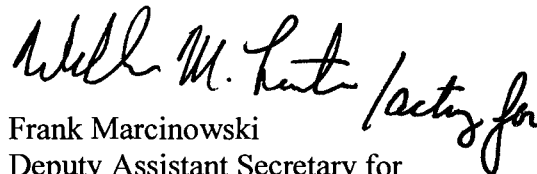


This sale would allow private industry to use the declassified and decontaminated nickel in a controlled manner to make high-quality products, while all aspects of the recycling, production, and end use would be controlled.

We targeted nickel for this sale because of its market value and the interest and support from local communities and industry. The experience gained through this initial sales effort, including the development of processes and business relationships, may inform planning of disposition of other recyclable metals and/or materials, pending the appropriate NEPA and policy review.

Again, we thank you for your input and for your continued support as we continue our efforts to remediate EM sites. If you have any further questions, please contact me directly at (202) 586-0370 or have your staff contact Ms. Melissa Nielson, Director of Office of Public and Intergovernmental Accountability, at (202) 586-0356.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank M. Marcinowski" with a flourish at the end that says "acting for".

Frank Marcinowski
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Regulatory Compliance