



THE MEMPHIS DEPOT TENNESSEE

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD COVER SHEET

AR File Number 247

Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry
Atlanta GA 30333

MAY 12 1997

Mr. Allen Ball, CEO
Memphis Health Center
360 E.H. Crump Boulevard
Memphis, Tennessee 38126

Mrs. Doris Bradshaw
Executive Director
Defense Depot Memphis Tennessee
- Concerned Citizens' Committee
1454 E. Mallory
Memphis, Tennessee 38106

Dear Mr. Ball & Mrs. Bradshaw:

Thank you for the follow up letter to our March 28, 1997 meeting. As you indicated in your letter, there are several issues that must be addressed related to possible adverse health effects associated with hazardous waste. The meeting in Memphis helped me to better understand the circumstances in Memphis associated with the Defense Depot.

The Defense Depot Memphis Tennessee-Concerned Citizen's Committee (DDMT-CCC) and other stakeholders who were at the meeting represent a significant segment of the Memphis community leadership. As we explore possible environmental problems, health needs and resources, I hope the DDMT-CCC will continue to include as many community leaders as possible.

You listed several important items in your long-term recovery plan and recommended four of which the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) should take action to include:

- 1) Revisit the Health Assessment conducted by ATSDR in 1995,
- 2) Review the cancer mortality data gathered by the State of Tennessee in 1996,
- 3) Review a plan for ongoing medical surveillance of residents, and
- 4) Work with the DDMT-CCC, the Region IV Health Office, Memphis Health Center, the Congress of National Black Churches, local affiliates and Shelby County/State of Tennessee health care agencies to develop a plan to pursue provision of primary care services that have an environmental health focus in the reported area.

Page Two - Mr. Ball and Mrs. Bradshaw

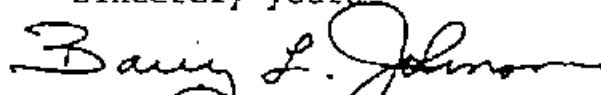
Of the four action items you listed, ATSDR efforts will initiate Items 1 and 2. We should discuss Item 3 to clarify what type of "medical surveillance" you wish to have, who ought to establish and monitor such a system and what outcomes you are expecting if such a system is created. ATSDR must implement the health surveillance and medical monitoring according to the Superfund Law. Item 4 also needs more discussion.

If ongoing health improvements and environmental monitoring are expected, the organizations you listed in your letter, in partnership with ATSDR, must develop an action plan to respond to the problems. Additionally, we can work together to design proactive strategies to prevent disease and promote health related to environmental issues.

I have asked Dr. Warren to contact you to determine the appropriate persons from ATSDR, the Memphis leadership and others that should be included on a planning team. In conjunction with the DDMT-CCC, he will determine a date, meeting location and other necessary arrangements so that we may begin our work. While I may not be included in the next several meetings, Dr. Warren will keep me fully abreast of our progress. I expect Dr. Warren to inform me, if and when, I should meet with your committee.

Once again, I appreciate the discussions related to your concerns about the Defense Depot. I learned a lot from the site visit to the community surrounding the Defense Depot. Additionally, I am very pleased that the DDMT-CCC has now partnered with the Memphis Health Center to address environmental health issues in the Memphis area. Clearly, the leadership to address and resolve most of the problems is in the local Memphis community. We at ATSDR are committed to working with you and I am excited about our future collaboration.

Sincerely yours



Barry L. Johnson, Ph.D.
Assistant Surgeon General
Assistant Administrator

cc:

U.S. Congressman Harold Ford, Jr.
Representative Lois DeBerry
Representative Kathryn I. Bowers
Representative John DeBerry, Jr.
Senator Roscoe Dixon
Rueben C. Warren, D.D.S., Dr.P.H.
Mark Bashor, Ph.D.

FINAL PAGE

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

FINAL PAGE

FINAL PAGE

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

FINAL PAGE