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LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
28TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

December 21, 2006

Dr. Paul L. Ziemer, Chairman
Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health
4676 Columbia Parkway, MS: C-46
Cincinnati, OH 45226

12-27-J6P01:03 RCVD

Dear Chairman Ziemer:

Thank you for recommending the Linde Ceramics facility in Tonawanda, NY for special exposure cohort (SEC) status and directing an auditor to review the Site Profile. As you know, in July 2006, SC&A released its audit of the Linde Ceramics Site Profile, which included several recommendations for enhancement and change. I am writing to request an update on the status of the audit as it relates to the Linde Ceramics facility.

Many of my constituents were employed at this facility for a number of years. With the enactment of Energy Employee Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act, several of these workers have sought assistance from my office in obtaining compensation benefits. To my dismay, many are still waiting for their claims to be addressed. Others have been denied benefits despite the recent audit that found several errors, including a lack of consideration about how to deal with non-uranium radionuclides at the site.

Given the time sensitivity of reviewing claims and the fact that some of the recommendations stemming from the audit could impact the outcome of these claims, when will a Working Group be formed to review the Linde Ceramics Site Profile audit and when do you expect the Advisory Board to act on this audit? Further, as the Working Group moves forward in its review of the audit recommendations, I ask that you keep me and my staff informed of any meetings and decisions relating to Linde Ceramics.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louise M. Slaughter".

Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress