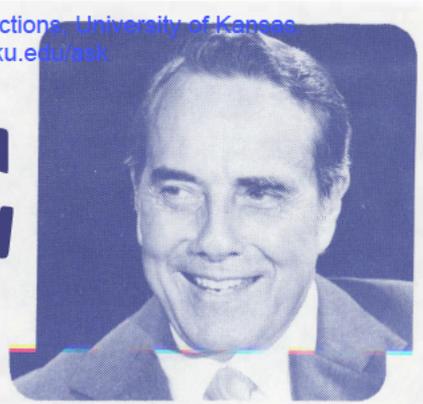


News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1984

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DELEGATION ASKS EPA ASSISTANCE AT FURLEY

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senators Bob Dole and Nancy Kassebaum, and Congressman Dan Glickman, today called upon Region.VII Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Morris Kay to assume lead responsibility for cleaning up the NIES waste site near Furley if it appears that the year end objectives set by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment will not be met.

In the letter the delegation observed that inclusion of the site on the Superfund National Priorities List highlights the seriousness of the problem at Furley and that further delay by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in implementing a comprehensive clean up plan cannot be tolerated.

"Despite the recent activity, the clean up efforts and relationships between the parties seem to be deteriorating. There is a real lack of confidence in the current efforts. We think the time has come to seriously reevaluate the Furley situation and possibly bring the EPA in to lead the clean up," Dole said.

The text of the letter follows:

Dear Mr. Kay:

We are increasingly concerned with the apparent lack of progress and piecemeal approach to the clean up effort at the NIES site near Furley, Kansas.

In recent weeks, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has issued nine separate orders to the operators of the site, yet there is still no indication that a comprehensive clean up plan will be implemented. Moreover, the operators of the site have indicated their intention to ignore several of those orders. We are concerned that the commitment of KDHE to dewater the E-ponds, clean up the E-pond sludges and have a comprehensive groundwater monitoring plan in place by the end of the year may not be met. After almost three years it does not seem unreasonable to expect that those commitments be met.

We recognize that inclusion on the Superfund National Priorities List does not on its own change the ongoing effort at Furley. However, it does serve to focus attention on the serious need to complete the clean up.

(MORE)

We are writing to ask that your agency undertake an examination of the progress made at the site to determine whether the year end objectives set forth by the KDHE will be met. If it appears those objectives will not be met, we further ask that you act immediately to assume lead responsibility for the clean up.

As you know, in the past we have been hesitant to suggest the EPA take the lead at the Furley site. It was clearly the intent of Congress that state environmental agencies administer hazardous waste programs within each state. But this is clearly a serious matter and further delay cannot be tolerated.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

BOB DOLE
United States Senate

NANCY LANDON KASSEBAUM
United States Senate

DAN GLICKMAN
U.S. House of Representatives