

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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

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CONTACT: SCOTT RICHARDSON
(202) 224-6521

DOLE SEEKS EXPANDED EPA ROLE AT FURLEY

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today announced that he has contacted Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Administrator Morris Kay to ask that the Agency take a more active role in the clean up of the Furley waste site. Senator Dole's request was prompted by recent reports that studies by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment showing new contamination at Furley had been overlooked for nine months.

"I was shocked to learn that studies which show new ground water contamination went unnoticed by state officials for nine months. Were it not for investigation by a concerned citizen these facts might never have been discovered," Dole said.

"Although the state of Kansas has primary responsibility for seeing that Furley is cleaned up, this development leads me to believe the EPA should play a greater role in the clean up operation and I have asked Mr. Kay to do that. I have asked the EPA to provide an independent assessment of all state reports relating to the Furley project and that those assessments be made available to local officials, concerned citizens and me. EPA has done a good job of monitoring the clean up effort at Furley since its inception, but it seems clear their role should be expanded to prevent any further oversights," Dole said.

"It may be that these new findings do not increase the health risk posed by the Furley site. But the fact remains that studies which show contamination in new areas of the site three times greater than any earlier findings, went unnoticed. The public should be assured that the site will be cleaned up. I believe the EPA can provide that assurance," said Dole.