

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE CALLS FOR FEDERAL AUDIT OF KANSAS HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today called on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct a program audit of Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) expenditures of federal funds for hazardous waste clean-up in Kansas. According to Senator Dole, information supplied by the EPA indicates that within the past six months the KDHE has ignored or failed to follow at least fifteen specific EPA recommendations pertaining to the clean up at the NEIS waste site near Furley.

"EPA Regional Administrator Morris Kay has advised me that KDHE files on the Furley clean-up reveal repeated instances where EPA comments on clean-up procedures have apparently been ignored. This is deeply disturbing. The state has received over one-half million dollars from the EPA during the past two years to administer the hazardous waste program in Kansas. Under those circumstances it does not seem unreasonable to expect that Agency recommendations will be followed," Dole said.

"I understand the Agency is considering a number of options for further action pending completion of their review of the Furley files. Because there are federal funds involved, I have asked Mr. Kay to seriously consider an agency audit of the state program. I believe that is the appropriate next step. The people of Kansas want to know, and have the right to know, whether federal hazardous waste funds are being properly utilized by the state," said Dole.

"According to Mr. Kay, several of the ignored EPA recommendations were intended to test for ground water contamination in the southern part of the Furley site. The fact that evidence of contamination in the southern part of the Furley site went unnoticed until a few weeks ago, leads me to believe that failure to follow EPA recommendations is not in the best interests of Kansans," said Dole.

The KDHE receives federal grant funds to administer the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act program for management and permitting of active hazardous waste sites in Kansas.