

Community Relations Office

July 10, 2009

Councilmember Jesse Arreguin
2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

Re: Council Item 44, July 14, 2009

Dear Councilmember Arreguin:

This letter is in response to your request that the City of Berkeley write a letter to the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory concerning transportation of debris from the Bevatron Demolition Project.

Building 51, which houses the Bevatron, is an approximately 125,000 gross-square-foot, steel-frame structure built in the early 1950s. During its operation from 1954 until 1993, the Bevatron was among the world's leading particle accelerators. The objective of the Bevatron Demolition Project is to remove a substandard building and its contents. Neither the Bevatron nor Building 51 are needed by Berkeley Lab. Building 51 is rated seismically poor, old, deteriorating, and expensive to maintain.

Materials generated as a result of the demolition project are being transported from Berkeley Lab via trucks. All waste shipments are covered, (e.g., with tarps or in closed containers). All hazardous and radioactive wastes are packaged in accordance with regulatory requirements. For example, all hazardous and radioactive waste that is in the form of dust is enclosed in containers such as sealed drums.

U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Energy, and California Department of Toxic Substances Control requirements for handling, transporting, and disposing of waste are being followed. In addition, all applicable California Environmental Quality Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and State Water Quality Control Board requirements for environmental protection are being followed during all demolition activities.

We understand there is some renewed concern about radiation exposure from these shipments. Based on the current inventory of materials, an upper-bound estimate on radiation dose to a person standing on the sidewalk when a truck transporting radioactive waste passes by is approximately 0.00002 millirem. For comparison, each day a person living in Berkeley receives about half a millirem per day from natural background radiation – 25,000 times the dose received by the person on the sidewalk from the passage of one of these trucks. Drivers of the trucks are covered under U.S. Department of Transportation regulations governing permissible levels of exposure.

Below are responses to the specific questions in your council item:

Ernest Orlando Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
One Cyclotron Road - MS 65 | Berkeley, CA 94720
Tel: 510.486.4387 | Fax: 510.486.6641

MJChokal@lbl.gov

Schedule

Based on current estimates, the project will require fewer than 2,350 truckloads over the course of its lifespan. Based on current estimates, approximately 1/3 of the truckloads will carry hazardous or radioactive waste, and the remaining 2/3 will carry salvageable materials or other construction debris. Removal of small amounts of material began in the spring of 2009, with the majority of material removal to begin this month. Hazardous and radioactive waste will be removed predominantly during the fall and winter of 2009-2010 and will continue into the summer of 2010. The most radioactive material was safely removed and disposed of in March 2009.

Routing and timing

All trucks will follow the only route agreed upon with the City of Berkeley for shipment of radioactive wastes, which is west on Cyclotron Road to Hearst, south on Oxford, then west on University Avenue and onto I- 80. Due to repaving of University Avenue, the Project Team is working closely with city staff regarding hauling schedules including when certain shipments will be made including days and times. Our mutual goal is to avoid shipments during commute hours; however, we will continue to use the agreed upon route with the City of Berkeley.

Compensation to City of Berkeley

The University of California is not authorized by the U.S. Department of Energy, under its contract to manage Berkeley Lab, to use Department funds to make direct payments to local municipalities or other governmental entities for any purpose other than for the direct purchase of products or services necessary to carry out the requirements of the contract. Laboratory Management is, however, interested in working with the City to explore other mechanisms for addressing this concern.

Be assured that Berkeley Lab is committed to the health and safety of our workers and the residents of Berkeley, and to the environmental welfare of our community. We are proud that the subcontractor on the Bevatron Demolition Project has now performed over 40,000 hours on this job without a single personnel safety incident.

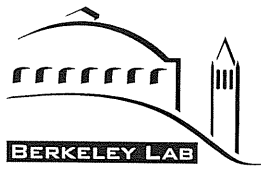
Thank you very much for your interest in this project which is of great importance to Berkeley Lab. Please do not hesitate to contact me with additional questions on this project or any other item related to Berkeley Lab.

Sincerely,



Mark Chekal-Bain
Community Relations Officer
University of California, Berkeley Lab

cc: Mayor Tom Bates
Berkeley City Council Members
Berkeley City Clerk
Berkeley City Manager



Community Relations Office

July 10, 2009

Councilmember Max Anderson
2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

Re: Council Item 44, July 14, 2009

Dear Councilmember Anderson:

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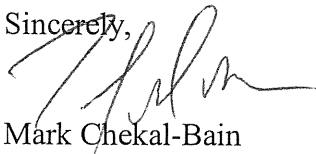
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Sincerely,



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cc: Mayor Tom Bates
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