



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Prisons

Washington, D.C. 20534

May 8, 1990

Mr. Steven Whitman
Committee to End the Marion Lockdown
343 South Dearborn, Suite 1607
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Mr. Whitman:

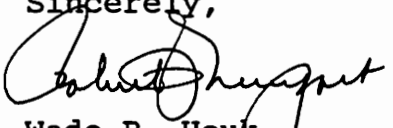
This is in response to your letter of March 20, 1990, concerning the time frame required to improve the water supply at the United States Penitentiary, Marion, Illinois.

The Bureau of Prisons has contracted with an architectural and engineering (A&E) firm to design and build a new domestic water source for the institution. This project will include: construction design, hydrographic and geodetic surveys, the drilling of five to six gang wells, the construction of a water treatment plant and an adjacent 38 acre artificial lake or reservoir. The A&E firm has initiated the design phase and construction will begin in October, 1990, with a completion date projected for the summer of 1991.

The Public Health Service and several local health service agencies perform scheduled testing of this water supply and their reports do not indicate that inmates are experiencing adverse health effects related to the drinking water. The water that is currently supplied from Crab Orchard Lake is often discolored and has a peculiar taste. Although this drinking water meets all health standards and is safe to drink, the Bureau of Prisons is committed to improving this water supply.

The estimated 18 months that will be required to create a long term water resource is a necessary and realistic time investment for a project of this size and complexity.

Sincerely,


Wade B. Houk
Assistant Director
for Administration