



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Prisons

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Washington, DC 20534

January 24, 1990

Kimberly Fitzgerald  
Committee to End the Marion Lockdown  
343 S. Dearborn  
Room 1607  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Ms. Fitzgerald:

The many allegations concerning the domestic water reservoir which supplies the United States Penitentiary, Marion has created misleading data based on biased facts. Regarding your letter dated December 26, 1989, listing alleged contradictory facts, I offer the following response:

The institution obtains water from the treatment facility owned and operated by the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, Carterville, Illinois. All waters used by treatment facilities are protected by the Clean Water Act of 1977. Also, any discharge into a watershed must meet National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements. Since Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge is a watershed, the watershed must meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act of 1977 as a Class 1 water supply and the NPDES.

The Crab Orchard Refuge water shed is protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Endangered Species Act. The refuge is a large nesting area for Canadian Geese and any contamination of the watershed would impact on these geese. The Fish and Game Department is continually monitoring and testing the water, soil, and plants and have not found any toxic chemical including PCB's which exceeds the limit listed in the NPDES. Another indication that this watershed is not contaminated is that the Canadian Geese still use this water supply as a nesting area.

The town of Marion is approximately 10 miles from the Crab Orchard Reservoir; when the water level of the reservoir owned and operated by Marion is low, Crab Orchard Reservoir is used, according to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Crab Orchard Reservoir water treatment facility is monitored by the water treatment staff and the State of Illinois Health Department and EPA through regular inspections. After the water is received by the institution, it is again treated with chlorine to maintain a residue of 0.6 to 0.8 parts per million. The water in the institution is monitored by the Safety Manager on a

Fitzgerald

Page 2

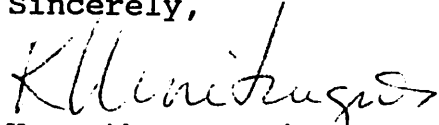
monthly basis with samples checked by an EPA approved water laboratory.

The Bureau of Prisons does not own or operate the water treatment facility; therefore, if your group would like to test the water being distributed by the Crab Orchard Reservoir treatment facility you may wish to contact the reservoir authority.

Let me assure you that the Bureau of Prisons makes every effort to maintain the existing safe and humane environment for both staff and inmates.

If you have any other concerns, please feel free to contract me.

Sincerely,



Kenneth P. Moritsugu, M.D., M.P.H.  
Assistant Surgeon General  
Medical Director