

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson,
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy & Water
Development, & Related Agencies
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur,
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy & Water
Development, & Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur:

As you develop the Fiscal Year 2017 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you restore funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Formerly Utilized Site Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) to its historical level of \$150 million.

The FUSRAP program will face unprecedented cleanup challenges in FY 2017 and beyond. There are several "megsites" entering the highly expensive remediation phase of the FUSRAP cleanup cycle. Unfortunately, the Administration's FY17 budget request for FUSRAP is \$103 million. This is an inadequate number, given the enormous increase in remediation and workscope requirements in the face of flat-to-declining annual funding.

Created in 1974 under the Department of Energy and then transferred to the United States Army Corps of Engineers in 1997, FUSRAP remediates contaminated sites from former Manhattan District or Atomic Energy Commission activities. Uranium, thorium, and radium are typical contaminants at these sites. Currently there are 24 active sites in 10 states where the Army Corps is conducting remedial actions through FUSRAP. Many of these sites still require a substantial amount of remediation and because of the reduction in Federal funding, cleanup progress has slowed. With this reduction in funding and cleanup, additional risks are posed by these sites' contamination. The potential for exposure increases as the sites further erode and the likelihood of public health problems increases over time.

Given the Federal government's direct role in contaminating these sites, it is imperative that adequate funding be provided to the Army Corps to address the public health and environmental risks these sites pose. Leaving these sites unaddressed not only poses a health risk to communities near these sites, but also ignores the Federal government's responsibility for addressing the lasting impacts of the Manhattan Engineer District and the Atomic Energy Commission activities.

Funding for FUSRAP fluctuated between \$140 million and \$160 million between FY 1998 and FY 2008. In FY 2009, funding was increased to \$240 million. Now, over the last five years, funding has been reduced to roughly \$100 million annually. Given the program's critical importance, we urge the Subcommittee to return FUSRAP back to the level of \$150 million or higher. By restoring this important funding to FUSRAP, the Army Corps will be able to make substantial progress in remediating these sites.

Increasing funding for this program now will help to save millions of dollars over the long-term. Remediation of these sites must occur at some point, and limited funding only increases the length of time necessary to address the dangers at FUSRAP sites. The longer that process requires, the more expensive the remedial activities become, and so increasing funding for this program now can help off-set those long-term expenditures. We appreciate your consideration of this request and your continued support of the FUSRAP program.

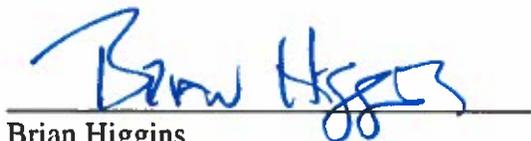
Sincerely,



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



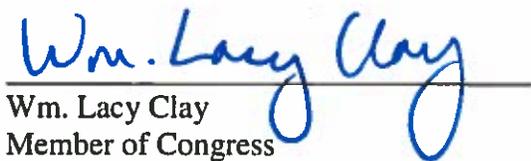
Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Chris Collins
Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Member of Congress



Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress