



Ministry of Defence

Secretariat
Defence Infrastructure Organisation
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Ref. FOI 2016/04096

9 May 2016

Dear

Thank you for your email of 10 April 2016 requesting the following information:

"I would like to request information regarding the removal of contaminated soils from the former OSU depot in Burscough, Lancashire to Whitemoss landfill site, (formerly J Routledge) Whitemoss Road South, Skelmersdale, Lancashire.

I would like to know if those soils contained low level, or other, radioactive waste. I might add, my query is not to discredit the MOD but merely to clarify the type of waste dumped at the landfill site. Whitemoss Landfill has stated they accepted contaminated soils from the OSU, Burscough site and I believe the information is available courtesy of articles that were mentioned in the Advertiser (local newspaper) at the time.

I believe the information will possibly be in the following two reports:

Enviros Consulting (2005) Former OSU depot, Burscough, Verification of decontamination works-final Defence Estates project number: 08095.

Waterman Environmental (2002) Former OSU Depot Burscough Summary of remediation works."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that all the information in scope of your request is held.

Contaminated soils from the demolition and remediation works at the above site were disposed of to the licensed Whitemoss Road South Landfill facility in Skelmersdale.

Radiologically contaminated material was analysed on site and off site by an UKAS accredited laboratory. Radium 226 materials deemed exempt by the regulator and suitable for landfill, in accordance with the phosphoric substances exemption order (the relevant regulation / legislation at the time) was disposed of to the licensed landfill site above. A Radiological Substances Authorisation (RSA) was in place during the remediation works.

Radium 226 materials classified as Low Level Waste (LLW) were packaged and assayed on site by Tessag Nukem before being consigned to BNFL UK national LLW repository at Drigg, Cumbria. Tessag Nukem dealt with the disposal of this material.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

DIO Secretariat