

I N T E R O F F I C E M E M O R A N D U M

Date: 08-Apr-1993 05:26pm CDT
From: LISA M DRAKE
LMDRAK @CCMAIL @SSWMB @CMISS
Dept:
Tel No:

TO: CAHILL, KEVIN S. @A1 @A1STL
TO: SRARCH @CCMAIL @SSWMB @CMISS
TO: AHSMIT @HP @SSWMB @CMISS

CC: WASSELL, LOREN W. @A1 @A1STL
CC: GLCSOL @CCMAIL @SSWMB @CMISS
CC: GDINGE @CCMAIL @SSWMB @CMISS
CC: LMDRAK @CCMAIL @SSWMB @CMISS
CC: MCMORR1 @CCMAIL @SSWMB @CMISS

Subject: RE: Operation New Spirit *

----- Forwarded with Changes -----
From: KEVIN S CAHILL at DEC
Date: 3/24/93 10:27PM
To: LISA M DRAKE at MONMAC44
*To: GARY F BARTON at MONESH01
*To: DIANE B HERNDON at MONESH01
*cc: ANDREA H SMITH at HP
*cc: KEVIN S CAHILL at DEC
*cc: LOREN W WASSELL at DEC
*cc: LAURENCE J O'NEILL at DEC
Subject: RE: Operation New Spirit *

I am trying to set an urgent meeting for Tuesday, April 13 at 9 a.m. to meet with the Operation New Spirit folks to ask questions specific to their proposal for funding and help on this urban gardening project in E. St. Louis. I have spoken to them regarding the testing and they say SCS will test for lead, asbestos, NPP and pH. They wish they had enough money to test for contaminants in waste oil that they know used to be spread on the road. There are several issues and questions here and we need to get these resolved. 1) Time is of the essence to Operation New Spirit so they can implement activities 2) Maggie Morris and her group want to donate \$5,000 of Pledge Award money to the group for aid in buying a gardening tractor 3) those of you with more expertise than I need to be present in the meeting to ask the questions regarding testing of the soil. Sue Cohler of SIU will bring a map with her to the meeting. Please make every effort to attend. I will get a location later. Lisa Drake
I do not wish to throw cold water on what on the surface appears to be a good opportunity, however, there are some details of the operation that should be addressed prior to embracing the program.

The information provided to me calls for soil testing in or around the Metro East to characterize the soil before gardening commences. A recent request was made of Monsanto to perform the testing in East St. Louis.

You may recall that heavy manufacturing has occurred in the Metro East for over one hundred years, with the W.G. Krummrich plant

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in operation as a Monsanto facility since 1917. Past disposal practices were not quite as enlightened as today. 'Poking holes' should not be undertaken lightly. Can we determine exact locations of the proposed testing? In addition, residents are likely to inquire as to why Monsanto is testing the soil. The underlying assumption may be that a problem exists.

Secondly, I am unclear as to the plant's long term responsibilities. The plant has an active community relations program, and this certainly could become a component, however, more information is required to determine how we leverage the program to the benefit of the plant.

Finally, I would be interested in learning of the success of the St. Louis Central West End project, which also focuses on community gardening.

I look forward to receiving more details regarding this project.

KSC

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