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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0103



May 29, 1992

Mr. Charles Smith
331 Senate Hart Office Building
Constitution and Second Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Smith:

I have recently conducted a review of the Mask Drinking System - Interim (MDS-I) program and have decided to terminate all further work on the Mine Safety Appliance Mask Drinking System.

Technical and Operational Tests of the MDS-I were conducted from November 1991 through April 1992 to determine suitability for type classification and fielding. Of the 89 systems used in operational tests, 50 systems failed for durability. Failures were based on crimped tubes, air/water leaks and broken valves. In view of these results, I have determined that the MDS-I is not suitable for type classification. However, the Army will continue to pursue development of a drinking device.

Thank you for your support of this program and your interest in improving the chemical defense preparedness of the Armed Forces.

Sincerely,

Joe W. Rigby
Major General, U.S. Army
Deputy for Combat
Service Support

OPTIONAL FORM 10 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

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To	Linda Pickett	From	Bob Harris
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