

8057 FUSRAP PA. 22



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20545

Weston
PA: 22-2

DEC 18 1990

Mr. William Steuteville
3 HW 33
EPA Region III
841 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

Dear Mr. Steuteville:

I am enclosing for your information a copy of the radiological survey report for the former Aeroprojects Facility in West Chester, Pennsylvania. The survey was performed for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) by Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Only background levels of radioactivity were found during the course of the survey. A copy of the survey has been furnished to the owners of the property, Philadelphia Ventures. A copy of the transmittal letter is enclosed.

There have been allegations of burial of small quantities of uranium at this site. It appears that the amount of uranium involved is well below the 100 pound reportable quantity (RQ) set by EPA for uranium nitrate. For this reason, and because the survey found no residual radioactivity related to past DOE activities, DOE will eliminate the site from further consideration in the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP).

I hope that this action is acceptable to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and that the survey report is helpful in EPA's decisions relating to the site. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Dr. W. Alexander Williams (301-353-5439) of my staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. Alexander Williams" or similar, written over a typed name.

James W. Wagoner
Acting Chief
Off-Site Branch
Division of Eastern Area Programs
Office of Environmental Restoration

2 Enclosures

cc:
D. C. Fuller, Philadelphia Ventures
W. Bellanger, EPA



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20545

DEC 13 1990

Mr. D. Craig Fuller
Philadelphia Ventures, N. V.
c/o Corporate Planning Associates, Inc.
Suite 100
125 Strafford Avenue
Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087

Dear Mr: Fuller:

Re: Sonobond Ultrasonics Facility in West Chester, PA

The Department of Energy (DOE) established its Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) to: (1) identify, through record searches, sites which were utilized by predecessor agencies; (2) evaluate the radiological condition of these sites to determine if they contain contamination from past activities of predecessor agencies; and (3) clean up sites, as needed, to conform with current radiological guidelines. With the consent of your company, DOE conducted a radiological survey of the former Aeroprojects facility in West Chester, Pennsylvania. The survey of the former Aeroprojects facility found no residual radioactivity above background levels.

A copy of the survey report is enclosed. Based on the results of the survey, DOE will eliminate the site from further consideration for remedial action by DOE. I also appreciate very much your helpful letter of July 12, 1990, to Dr. W. Alexander Williams of my staff; this letter provided some very helpful information concerning alleged burial of radioactive material at the facility.

Your letter indicated that small amounts of uranium may have been buried at the site. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set a "reportable quantity" for uranium nitrate at 100 pounds under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA); another "reportable quantity" for uranium (based on uranium's radioactive properties) is larger. These reportable quantities set a reporting threshold for significant releases of materials into the environment. Releases of materials in excess of the reportable quantity must be reported to EPA, and releases below the reportable quantity do not have to be reported. Based on the information you provided, the amount of uranium allegedly buried at the site is apparently well below EPA's reportable quantity. Similarly, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has established a "general license" for commercial and industrial firms to use and transfer up to 15 pounds of uranium at any one time; under this general license, no more than 150 pounds of uranium may be received per calendar year.

Based on the information you provided, the uranium allegedly buried at the facility seems to be well below the annual limit of 150 pounds and may be less than the 15 pound limit for one time possession. In summary, the amount of uranium involved appears to be in quantities that the appropriate regulatory agencies (EPA and NRC) consider to be insignificant.

Since the amount of uranium allegedly buried at the facility appears to be insignificant and since the radiological survey found no residual radioactivity above background levels, there is an adequate basis for eliminating the site from further consideration by DOE. I have directed my staff to prepare the necessary documents, which will be placed in DOE's public reading room.

If you would like to discuss this further, please call Dr. W. Alexander Williams (301-353-5439) of my staff.

Sincerely,



James W. Wagoner II
Acting Chief
Off-Site Branch
Division of Eastern Area Programs
Office of Environmental Restoration

Enclosure

cc:

W. D. Steuteville, EPA Region III
W. Bellanger, EPA Region III

bcc:
Weston
EM-40 (3)
EM-42 reader
Williams reader

EM-421:AWilliams:jh:353-5439:12/4/90:steu

ph

WAW
EM-421
Williams
12/5/90

EM-421 *WAW*
Wagoner *lan*
12/5/90

EM-42
Fullmer *WAW*
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Whitfield
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