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Aeroface

Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20545

NOV 4 1987

Mr. Paul Daley
Heppenstall
P.O. Box 4037
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15201

Dear Mr. Daley:

As you are aware from our discussions of October 30, 1987, the Department of Energy (DOE) is conducting a program to investigate sites formerly used by or for DOE predecessor agencies, including the Atomic Energy Commission, in the development of nuclear energy. The purpose of the investigation is to verify that radiological conditions at these sites or facilities comply with current Federal guidelines, and if they do not, implement remedial action (where DOE has authority to do so) to correct the unacceptable condition.

The typical course of action in a site investigation is to first search DOE predecessor records to determine if there is any potential for site contamination and if there is DOE authority for remedial action, if it is necessary. Additional record searches and interviews with cognizant individuals are then conducted to identify information that would either demonstrate the site was radiologically clean with respect to DOE predecessor operations or that there was residual radioactive material remaining on the site in excess of guidelines. If neither can be confirmed through the investigation, a preliminary survey of the site or facility is conducted to verify there is or is not residual radioactive material at the site.

The Heppenstall Co. site in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has been identified as a former AEC contractor. The site was used, in 1955, under subcontract to Mallinckrodt Chemical Co. to heat, press into shape using a 1,000 ton press, and water quench uranium "dingots." Based on records identified to date, something over 100,000 pounds of normal uranium metal was shaped at Heppenstall over about a 6-month period.

While we believe that there is very limited potential for residual radioactive material above guidelines to be present at the former processing site, we have not been able to identify sufficient records to verify the site is in acceptable radiological condition. We would, therefore, appreciate any information you can provide to us on this operation and the current condition of the site. I have enclosed a list of questions which are pertinent to our investigation. Any information you

can provide, either in the way of records or recollections, that would help us in answering these questions would be very useful. If you have any questions, please call me at 301-353-5439.

Sincerely,

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Andrew Wallo III
Division of Facility and Site
Decommissioning Projects
Office of Nuclear Energy

Enclosure

bcc:
Aerospace

NE-20 RF
NE-23 RF
Wallo RF
NEG (4)

NE-23:AWallo:ph:353-5439:11/4/87:IBM:307/62:3.38.6

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Questions Regarding Operations Conducted for the
AEC at Heppenstall Co. Site

Please respond to the following questions by providing records that contain the information requested or narratives summarizing recollections of individuals having knowledge of the operations (identify individuals that assisted in responding to the questions).

1. Where in the Heppenstall facility was the uranium metal work conducted?
 - o Provide the street address of the facility where the work was performed.
 - o Describe the building(s) and equipment used. Type of structure, floor, equipment layout, etc., and where possible provide maps or drawings.
 - o Is equipment still in place?
 - o Describe changes to the facility since termination of the uranium metal work.
 - o What is the current use of the structure(s), equipment, and/or land(s) used in the uranium processing operations?
2. What was the general use of the site other than the DOE predecessor work?
3. Who is the current owner of the areas used for the uranium processing?
4. Describe the uranium processing operation at Heppenstall.
 - o Duration of uranium processing?
 - o Quantity of uranium was processed?
 - o Indicate individuals or organizations (AEC, Heppenstall or Mallinckrodt) responsible for:
 - the uranium processing operation?
 - security?
 - health and safety, especially health physics and waste handling?
 - accountability of the feed material, wastes, and product?
 - o Was the site decontaminated after the operation? By who?

5. Was the site involved in processing any other radioactive material before or after the work done for AEC?
 - o If so, what and for whom?
 - o Was the site ever licensed to process radioactive material by the AEC or the Nuclear Regulatory Commission?
6. Identify any other individuals that might have direct knowledge of site operations related to the uranium processing done for the AEC.