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Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20545

OCT 13 1987

Mr. Joseph M. Fallon
Director, Engineering Services
Slater Steels Corporation
Post Office Box 630
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

Dear Mr. Fallon:

As you may know, the Department of Energy (DOE) is in the process of evaluating the radiological condition of sites that were utilized by the Manhattan Engineer District (MED) and the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) during the early years of nuclear development to determine whether they need remedial action and whether the Department has authority to perform such action. As you may be aware, through earlier correspondence between Dr. William E. Mott of DOE and Mr. E. E. Hodgess, Sr. of Joslyn Stainless Steel, the former site of Joslyn Stainless Steels, Joslyn Manufacturing and Supply Company (now Slater Steels Corp.), Fort Wayne, Indiana, was identified as one such site, as a result of work during 1944-1949 involving the rolling and machining of uranium rods.

This letter, along with the enclosed summary report, represents the results of the Department's review to determine if the site contains residual radioactive contamination traceable to the actions conducted on behalf of the MED/AEC. The report is provided to you as the representative of the site owner, for your information. On the basis of the review, the Department has determined that no potential exists for significant amounts of residual radioactive material derived from activities conducted for the MED/AEC to remain at this site. As a result, the site was eliminated from further consideration under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). This package was prepared as the final DOE action on this site under FUSRAP.

Documentation supporting the Department's decision will be available for public review at the Department's Public Reading Room located in Room 1E-190 of the Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C.

If you have any questions regarding this decision or the availability of the material at the reading room, please contact Andrew Wallo of my staff at 301-353-5439.

Sincerely,

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James J. Fiore, Director
Division of Facility and Site
Decommissioning Projects
Office of Nuclear Energy

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Enclosures

cc:
Mr. Hal Stocks, Chief
Radiological Health Section
Division of Industrial Hygiene &
Radiological Health
Indiana State Board of Health
1330 W. Michigan Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206

bcc:
W. Cottrell, ORNL, w/o enclosures
Aerospace, w/enclosures

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

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SLATER STEELS CORPORATION
(The Former Joslyn Manufacturing and Supply Company)
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Site Function

This site was used under contract 7401-37-9 (and possibly others) with the Manhattan Engineer District (MED) and the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) from 1944 to 1949 to roll and machine uranium rods from billets. The billets were received by rail. Work was conducted under AEC constant supervision, and scraps and ash generated were retained by MED/AEC personnel for uranium accountability. Small furnaces were used to heat the material. Three mills (9-, 14-, and 18-inch) and straightening, cutting, threading, and grinding equipment were used in the operation. An outdoor area was used to burn waste.

The 14-inch mill is still in operation, and the uranium billet storage area is currently used as a roll shop. The 18-inch mill was sold to AMEX Specialty Metal Corporation, Coldwater, Michigan, and the 9-inch mill was brokered through the T.B. Hudson Company and is believed to have been shipped to Sonora, Mexico. The furnaces were constructed for MED/AEC and, under its direction, were removed at the end of the contract. The other equipment has been scrapped, and its location has not been determined.

Site Description

The site has been considerably developed since the time of the contract. However, several of the buildings used in the uranium operation still exist and have been refurbished (for example, new concrete floors have been installed). The attached figure shows the site layout. Letters A through J indicate areas used in the MED/AEC operations.

Owner History

The facilities are owned and operated by Slater Steels Corporation.

Radiological History and Status

A radiological survey was conducted by the AEC Health and Safety Laboratory on August 1, 1949 (at contract termination). At that time, certain areas of the site were reported to have radioactivity levels above guidelines then in use. Because no record of a decontamination was identified, Department of Energy (DOE) (then the Energy Research and Development Administration) Oak Ridge Operations Office and Oak

Ridge National Laboratory personnel visited the site on October 23, 1976. They performed exploratory measurements to determine whether any significant contamination remained. Results indicated that radioactive surface contamination measurements were, in general, indistinguishable from instrument background. A few isolated spots showed traces of alpha and beta-gamma radiation, but readings were below current guidelines.*

Based on a review of historical records and radiological survey results, DOE has determined that no remedial action is warranted at the Joslyn site and has eliminated it from consideration for inclusion in the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program. The final elimination report was completed in fiscal year 1987.

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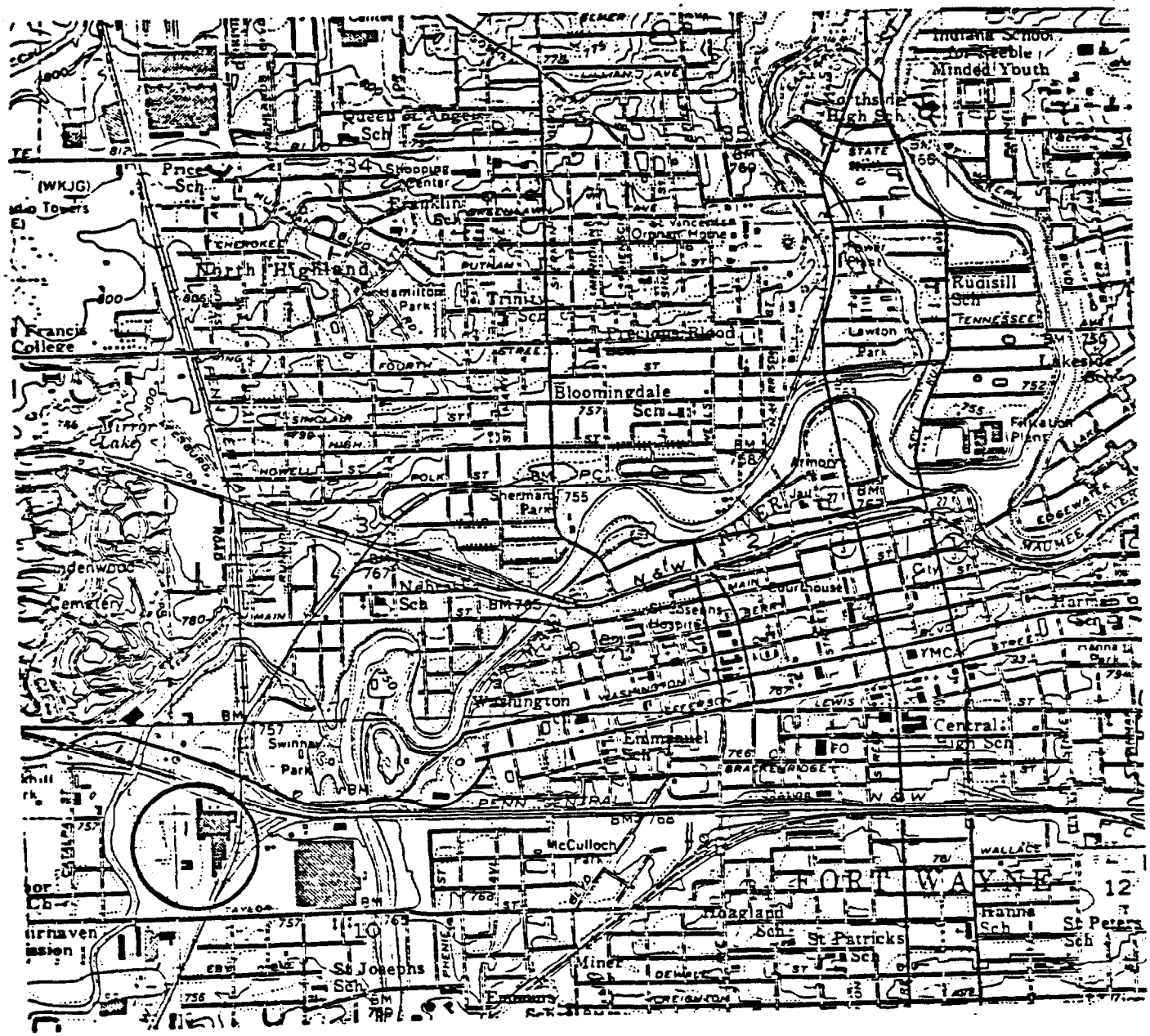
*U.S. Department of Energy Guidelines of Residual Radioactivity at Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program and Remote Surplus Facilities Management Program Sites, Rev. 1, July 1985.



Site of the Former Joslyn Stainless Steels

UNITED STATES
ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

OAK RIDGE OPERATIONS
P. O. BOX E
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE 37830

AREA CODE 615
TELEPHONE 483-8611

March 10, 1977

Assistant Director for Health Protection, DSSC-HQ
ATTN: R. H. Kennedy, DSSC-HQ

ERDA RESURVEY PROGRAM: JOSLYN STAINLESS STEEL COMPANY, FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

On October 23, 1976, H. W. Dickson and I visited the subject site to reassess the radiological status of those facilities utilized under AEC/MED contract during 1944-49 and to determine the need for a formal ERDA/ORNL survey. Discussions were held with Mr. Edwin E. Hodgess, Jr., Vice President-Operations who provided information on the AEC operations and identified those parts of the plant which were involved. Most of his information came from discussions with Paul Lauletta, a former Joslyn employee directly involved in the project. On the enclosed diagram showing the plant layout, the letters A through J indicate areas involved in uranium operation. Radiation measurements were made in all these areas using alpha and beta-gamma sensitive instruments and showed radiation levels to be generally indistinguishable from naturally occurring background levels. A trace of beta-gamma radiation approaching 0.1 mrad/hr was detected at an isolated spot in the Roll Shop (Area B). The maximum alpha reading found was 300 d/m/100 cm^2 and occurred on the wall in Area F.

Subsequent to the October 23 visit, a HASL memo reporting a radiation survey at Joslyn by A. R. Piccot on August 1, 1949, was provided to us by HQ (copy enclosed). Certain of the areas surveyed reportedly had readings of 20 mrad/hr and greater. It is doubtful that this was the final AEC radiation survey; however, discussions with current and former HASL staff (Al Breslin, Paul Klevin, and Hal Glauberman) have not completely clarified the matter. We have been unable to contact Mr. Piccot.

Conclusion: Since no radioactivity of significance was detected during the October 23, 1976, survey of Joslyn facilities and since tight accountability procedures required the return to AEC of any uranium cutting and grinding residues or oxide scale which was generated in the process, it is considered unlikely that pockets of radioactivity could exist under new concrete surfaces which would be of potential health and safety

consequence. (Note: findings from our survey at Simonds Steel, Lockport, New York, revealed nothing representing a potential radiation safety problem and it is our understanding that the work at Joslyn was similar but on a smaller scale.)

Recommendation: It is recommended that no further ERDA survey be performed at Joslyn.

If you concur, the enclosed letter will be sent to Joslyn confirming our conclusions.

William T. Thornton
Health Protection Branch
Safety and Environmental Control Division

OSH:WTT

Enclosures:
As stated

cc: J. W. Range, PIO
W. H. Travis, S&EC