

FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

ELIMINATION REPORT
FOR
DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

Department of Energy
Office of Nuclear Energy
Office of Remedial Action and Waste Technology
Division of Facility and Site Decommissioning Projects

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ELIMINATION REPORT
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INTRODUCTION

The Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Nuclear Energy, Office of Remedial Action and Waste Technology, Division of Facility and Site Decommissioning Projects (and/or predecessor agencies, offices, and divisions) has reviewed the past activities of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) at the Dow Chemical Company, Walnut Creek, California. Based on radiological surveys conducted by DOE and others, DOE has determined that the conditions at this site are in compliance with current DOE radiological guidelines and standards, and that no potential for radiological exposure exists beyond that resulting from natural background. Therefore, this site requires no DOE remedial action and will not be included in the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program.

This report presents information supporting the determination that the radiological conditions at the Dow Chemical Company, Walnut Creek, California are in compliance with current DOE radiological guidelines and standards¹ and provides assurance that use of the site will not result in any measurable radiological hazard to site occupants or the general public.

¹U.S. Department of Energy Guidelines for Residual Radioactivity at Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program and Remote Surplus Facilities Management Program Sites (February 1985).

This elimination report will be archived by DOE through the Assistant Secretary for Management and Administration. A copy of this package will be available for public review between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays), at the DOE Public Document Room located in Room 1E-190 of the Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C.

BACKGROUND

Site Function

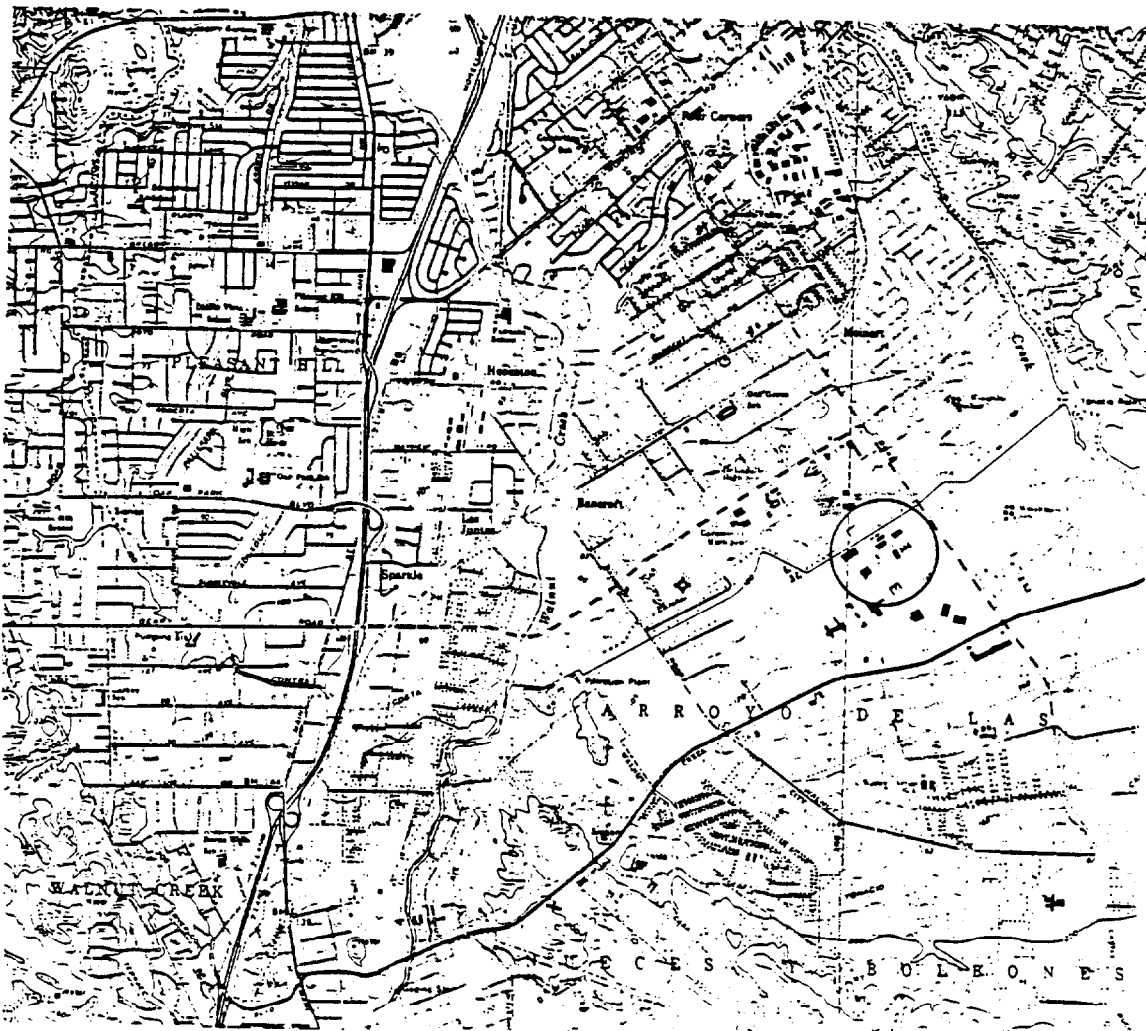
The Dow operation involved process studies and experimental investigations on different uranium ores and thorium-bearing ores, including pilot-scale solvent extraction of uranium from phosphoric acid. The defined period for the work under Atomic Energy Commission contract AT(30-1)-GEN-236 was October 1, 1947, to June 30, 1948, and was extended to June 30, 1949, by Supplement 1 of the contract. Supplement 2 added studies on liquid waste disposal, and Supplements 4 through 12 extended the period of performance to June 30, 1957.

Site Description

The facilities have been, and are still, owned and operated by Dow Chemical Company. The Dow facility is located at 2800 Mitchell Drive (see attached figure). Four rooms (1, 2, 18, and 25) in the Research Building were used. These rooms have been remodeled, and all are now in use.

Radiological History and Status

A radiological screening survey of the facility was performed by DOE Chicago Operations Office and Argonne National Laboratory personnel on December 8, 1977. No levels of radioactivity above background were detected anywhere, except for the inaccessible areas



Location of Dow Chemical Company

of a fume hood located in Room 18. Subsequent remodeling of the laboratory room included removing the hood and scrubbing the area until no activity above background could be detected. These findings were conveyed to and confirmed by the State of California.

ELIMINATION ANALYSIS

Based on a review of historical records and the radiological survey results, DOE has determined that radiation levels are equal to natural background, demonstrating that the site was adequately decontaminated when operations were terminated. Therefore, no remedial action is necessary and the site of Dow Chemical Company, Walnut Creek, California, has been eliminated from further consideration under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program.

REFERENCES

- R.H. Bauer (DOE Chicago Operations Office) to J.L. Liverman (DOE Headquarters), "The Dow Chemical Company," December 29, 1977.
- W.H. Beamer (Dow Chemical Company) to W.E. Mott (DOE Headquarters), Letter of March 14, 1979.
- Jesse C. Johnson (AEC) to R.G. Heitz (Dow Chemical Company), Letter of July 9, 1957.
- W.H. Beamer, (Dow Chemical Company) to W.J. Thornton (U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration, Oak Ridge Operations Office), Letter of October 29, 1976.