



Department of Energy  
Chicago Operations Office  
9800 South Cass Avenue  
Argonne, Illinois 60439

DEC 29 1977

James L. Liverman, Acting Assistant  
Secretary for Environment, HQ

THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY

On December 8, 1977, Edward J. Jascewsky, Department of Energy (DOE), and Walter Smith, Argonne National Laboratory (ANL), visited The Dow Chemical Company, Walnut Creek, California. The purpose of the visit was to discuss the past operations at these facilities under Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), Contract AT (40-1)-GEN 236, which involved process studies on different uranium ores. Discussions were held with Dr. Charles Levine, Radiation Safety Officer. He identified four rooms (#1, 2, 18, and 25) in the Research Building that were used during the period of the contract.

A survey of the facility was performed by Messrs. Jascewsky and Smith. The instruments used were an Eberline gas proportional counter (PAC-4G-3) and an end window geiger-muller detector (Model E-530). No levels above background were detected in any area except for the accessible areas of a fume hood located in room 18. The levels were, in general, less than 5000 counts per minute (cpm) per 51 square centimeters (cm<sup>2</sup>). A maximum reading of 7000 cpm/51 cm<sup>2</sup> was found over an area of six inches by six inches. Background readings on the PAC-4G-3 were 200 cpm/51 cm<sup>2</sup>. Dr. Levine previously performed a smear survey of all the areas and found no activity above background.

The laboratory room, which houses this fume hood, is previously scheduled to be remodeled, and the hood is scheduled to be removed and disposed of. Dr. Levine stated that during this operation he will provide health physics coverage and will dispose of the material in an appropriate manner.

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Since the survey results showed no radiation levels above background, except for the hood, which will be handled by Dr. Levine, I recommend that no additional surveys be performed by the DOE/ANL resurvey\_team.

*Robert H. Bauer for*

Robert H. Bauer  
Manager

SD:EJJ

cc: R. Wynveen, ANL  
W. Smith, ANL  
C. Levine, The Dow Chemical Company  
W. E. Mott, ECT, HQ