



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064**

March 2, 2000

Memorandum To: Thomas Essig, Chief
Uranium Recovery Branch
Division of Waste Management

From: Dwight D. Chamberlain, Director /RA/
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

SUBJECT: TERMINATED LICENSE REVIEW

On February 25, 2000, as part of the Region's efforts to close out docket files for selected previously terminated sites, we concluded a review of the Porter Brothers Corporation license activities conducted at Lowman, Idaho. Details of this review are provided in the enclosure to this memorandum. In summary, the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) authorized the Porter Brothers Corporation in 1953 to possess raw source material in the form of monazite sand. This license expired on October 1, 1956. An Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) review identified that the docket file contained inadequate information to allow the NRC to properly close the docket file.

We have determined that the Porter Brothers Corporation site has been incorporated into the U.S. Department of Energy, Uranium Mill Tailing Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA) program. The site is being controlled and monitored in accordance with the "Long Term Surveillance Plan for Lowman, Idaho, Disposal Site," dated April 1994. Confirmation that the Porter Brothers Corporation site is the site being monitored under the UMTRCA program is contained in "Engineering Assessment of Lowman, Idaho Site," dated September 1981, authored by Ford, Bacon, and Davis Utah, Inc. An excerpt from this document linking the monitored site to the Porter Brothers Corporation is attached to the Site Status Report. Based on this information, the Region believes that sufficient information has been developed to close the Porter Brothers Corporation docket file and to remove it from the previously terminated sites list.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact D. Blair Spitzberg, Ph.D., Chief, Fuel Cycle and Decommissioning Branch at (817) 860-8191 or Danny L. Rice, CHP, at (817) 860-8151.

Docket No.: NA
License No.: R-00150 (terminated)

Enclosure: Site Status Report

Thomas Essig

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E-Mail letter w/enclosure to Document Control Desk (DOCDESK)

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ENCLOSURE

Site Status Report

Final ORNL Site Score: 110

Docket No. NA

License No. R-00150

Licensee Name: Porter Brothers Corporation
P.O. Box 667
Boise, Idaho

Site Name: NA

Site Address: 75 miles Northeast of Boise, Idaho

Regional Contact: Danny L. Rice, CHP, Health Physicist
Fuel Cycle and Decommissioning Branch
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety
Region IV

Status Summary:

Source Materials License R-00150 was issued by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to the Porter Brothers Corporation, on October 21, 1953, authorizing transfer, possession and delivery of raw source material. The licensee operated a milling operation using a mechanical process to concentrate columbite-euxenite and monazite from bulk ore.

Efforts to contact the licensee were not effective. In that the licensee was licensed to operate a uranium milling operations, the inspector contacted the U.S. Department of Energy, Grand Junction Project Office, UMTRCA Project Manager to determine if the Porter Brothers Corporation site was being managed by DOE under the UMTRCA program. The DOE Project Manager confirmed that the Porter Brothers Corporation site was being managed under the UMTRCA program and provided excerpts from an engineering assessment performed in 1981 (excerpts attached) referencing the licensee.

The assessment documented that the licensee processed approximately 200,000 tons of dredge product during the active life of the license. The assessment also indicated that at the time of the assessment, September 1981, the site included some concrete foundations, a few small sheds, and some debris. Additionally, the assessment indicated that just over 90,000 tons of sand remained on the site in several piles. The sands and residues were scattered throughout the 37-acre site in 10 locations covering about 5 acres.

Review of the "1999 Annual Site Inspection and Monitoring Report for Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act Title I Disposal Sites," dated January 2000, from Russel Edge, U.S. DOE, Grand Junction Project Office, revealed that DOE is monitoring the site through annual site inspections (Lowman, Idaho).

In that the licensed site is being managed and controlled by DOE under the UMTRCA program, the Region recommends closure of the Porter Brothers Corporation docket file.