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NRC STAFF TERMINATES BUDD COMPANY LICENSE
FOR PHILADELPHIA FACILITY

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has terminated the license held by the Budd Company for a facility in Philadelphia, after verifying that the company has met NRC decommissioning requirements for that site.

The Budd Company operated a hot cell facility at 2950 Roberts Avenue in Philadelphia from 1956 through 1967 to manufacture sealed sources for use in industrial radiography. (A hot cell is a heavily shielded enclosure in which radioactive materials are handled by persons using remote manipulators, such as mechanical arms, and viewed through shielded windows or periscopes.) A small amount of unsealed cesium-137 was also used for a brief time at the facility.

Budd began limited decommissioning of the facility in 1967, when it terminated operations. At that time, large amounts of equipment and radioactive material were removed and properly disposed of or transferred. The interior of the hot cell was partially decommissioned, but not to a level of contamination that would allow releasing it for unrestricted use. The cell was entombed, by sealing openings, and periodic measurements were taken to ensure that the cell was not deteriorating.

Further remediation efforts to complete decommissioning began in July 1991, after NRC approval of the licensee's decommissioning plan in April 1991. Contaminated concrete and equipment and a small amount of contaminated soil underneath a building were removed.

On September 24, 1992, the licensee asked the NRC to terminate the license. Based on an NRC staff review of the licensee's closeout radiation survey, the results of the NRC's confirmatory survey and inspection and the NRC staff's review of historical information about the site, the NRC terminated the license and released the site for unrestricted use.

The Budd Company site was included in the NRC Site Decommissioning Management Plan, which identified over 40 sites throughout the United States that are contaminated with

radioactive materials and warrant special attention by the Commission. Budd is the second to be sufficiently remediated to be removed from the list. The NRC believes that five additional sites on the SDMP list may complete remediation activities in 1993.

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