

May 25, 2000

Mr. Robert C. Maier, Chief
Decommissioning Section
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Radiation Protection
P.O. Box 8469
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-8469

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
DECOMMISSIONING THE MOLYCORP, WASHINGTON, PA FACILITY

Dear Mr. Maier:

The purpose of this letter is to request comments from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) on the enclosed draft environmental assessment (EA). The draft EA has been prepared to address the potential environmental impacts of Molycorp's proposed plan for cleanup of its ferrocolumbium alloy production facility in Washington, PA. This review would be in accordance with Article 12 of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff and PADEP, signed on July 15, 1999. In accordance with our MOU, we request your comments within 30 days.

Please note that the draft EA addresses elevated levels of metals in groundwater. However, because these contaminants did not originate from the processing of licensed material (i.e., ferrocolumbium ore), Molycorp's decommissioning plan is not required to address the remediation of these contaminants.

If you have any questions concerning the draft EA, please contact Roy Person at (301) 415-6701.

Sincerely,
Original Signed By
Larry W. Camper, Chief
Decommissioning Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: Draft EA

License No. SMB-1393
Docket No. 40-8778

cc: D. Allard, PADEP
J. Yusko, PADEP

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AN: ML003719272

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