

NOV 20 1995

License No. SMB-1541

Docket No. 040-08980

Anthony J. Thompson, Esquire
Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge
2300 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 22037-1128

SUBJECT: ROUTING INSPECTION NO. 040-08980/95-001

Dear Mr. Thompson:

This letter refers to a routine safety inspection conducted by Marie Miller and Joseph Nick of this office on August 31, 1995 at the Heritage Minerals Inc., facility at Route 70, Lakehurst, New Jersey of activities authorized by the above referenced license. The inspection was an examination of license activities as they relate to radiation safety and to compliance with the Commission's regulations and license conditions. The inspection consisted of interviews with personnel, observations by the inspectors, an examination of survey records from 1994 through 1995, and independent measurements by the inspectors. The findings of the inspection were discussed with John Lord, Adrian E. Albrethson and Max El Tawil at the conclusion of the inspection. This inspection was also observed by Fred Sickels, who represented the State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection.

Within the scope of this inspection, no violations were identified. The licensee has an adequate radiation safety program.

Licensee representatives stated that there are no production activities involving the monazite-rich sand. The inspectors observed that the dry mill was boarded to prevent access and that all licensed material was stockpiled in a fenced area with "Caution, Radiation Area" signs posted on all four sides and at the entrance. Licensee representatives stated that they frequently replace the postings because they are stolen by individuals who trespass through this area for recreational activities. The fence provides adequate security and a caretaker discourages trespassers during the day, which is when most of the recreational activities occur.

Monthly general area radiation surveys were conducted by the licensee's Radiation Safety Officer with their Ludlum Model 19 micro-R meter. Although this meter was due for calibration in February 1995, these evaluations were adequate because survey results from 1995 were consistent with surveys conducted throughout 1994. Also, the inspectors noted the inventory of licensed material remained the same. The licensee stated they will have the meter calibrated after the manufacturer modifies it for depth measurements in September 1995.

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The inspectors made independent measurements of the stockpile area and areas around the dry mill with micro-R meters (Ludlum Model 19, instrument serial numbers 19633 and 033512, with calibration due dates of October 7, 1995 and February 16, 1996, respectively). The inspectors confirmed that the areas were properly posted and that personnel monitoring is not required given the radiation levels and the infrequent activities in the vicinity of the licensed material.

The inspectors also discussed the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission final rule requiring the timely decontamination and decommissioning of nuclear material facilities, which became effective August 15, 1994 (59 FR 36026). This rule provides requirements for the timely initiation and completion of decommissioning and the submittal of a request for termination of NRC licenses. As the inspectors informed the licensee representatives, a separate letter on this matter will be sent to you.

In other matters discussed, the licensee representatives stated that the drums containing monazite-rich sands that had been in the dry mill were moved in April 1995 to the stockpile area on a recommendation from a New Jersey State representative.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice, Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter will be placed in the Public Document Room. No reply to this letter is required.

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

John D. Kinneman, Chief
Nuclear Materials Safety Branch 2
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No. 040-0890
License No. SMB-1541

cc:
State of New Jersey

John Lord
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