

June 4, 1998

Jill Lipoti, Ph.D.  
Assistant Director  
Radiation Protection Programs  
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Environmental Safety, Health and Analytical Programs  
P.O. Box 415  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

SUBJECT: Heritage Minerals, Inc.

Dear Ms. Lipoti:

Thank you for your letter of March 18, 1998 providing comments on the HMI report, "Final Status Survey Plan (FSSP) for License Termination of Heritage Minerals NRC License #SMB-1541." The comments raised in your letter relate to licensee characterization issues (affected areas, laboratory analyses) and a question regarding NRC requirement for determination of the vertical extent of residual soil contamination.

Your comments will be included with our review and forwarded to HMI for consideration. Questions about potentially contaminated areas in need of remediation which are not described in the FSSP will be discussed with the licensee.

The NRC does not have specific requirements which licensees must follow to determine vertical extent of residual soil contamination comparable to those proposed by the NJDEP. We have renewed the HMI license (attached) authorizing facility decontamination and anticipate the licensee soon will initiate site remediation activities. Note that condition 15 of the license renewal requires HMI to decontaminate the monazite pile to meet the maximum concentration of 10 pCi/gm for natural thorium prior to release for unrestricted use. This criteria is described in Option 1 of the Branch Technical Position, "Disposal or Onsite Storage of Thorium or Uranium Wastes From Past Operations," published at 46 FR 52061, dated October 23, 1981 (attached). Following disposal of the licensed material, the licensee must demonstrate that subsurface sampling will meet the limits identified in the BTP.

As discussed during our March 10, 1998 meeting, our review of the FSSP is ongoing. We expect to coordinate with your staff as HMI progresses toward final remediation. Should you have additional comments about HMI, please contact Craig Gordon at (610) 337-5216.

Sincerely,  
*Original signed by Marie Miller*

Marie Miller, Chief  
Decommissioning and Laboratory Branch  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

ITEM # 19

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