



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

July 31, 2000

Mr. Fred Dohmann, General Manager
Fansteel, Inc.
Number Ten Tantalum Place
Muskogee, Oklahoma 74403-9297

SUBJECT: DECOMMISSIONING PLAN (EASTERN PROPERTY AREA SMB-911)
MODIFICATION (TAC L20669)
3-2-0

Dear Mr. Dohmann:

The staff has completed a review of your letter dated June 15, 2000 requesting a modification to the Eastern Property Decommissioning Plan dated June 16, 1999. As discussed in our June 27, 2000 telephone conference, there is some additional information which is required before the staff can complete its review.

- 1) The letter states that the proposed revision to the decommissioning plan would read as follows: "The groundwater will be treated in a process that will..." In our telephone conference you indicated that this process would likely be either the current evaporator system or the wastewater treatment system. Clearly specify in the revised wording of the decommissioning plan any treatment systems which will be used.
- 2) The proposed wording for section 2.1.2.8.2 states that "the NPDES permit discharge limits" will not be exceeded. This sentence should be revised to include that Part 20 effluent discharge limits also will not be exceeded.
- 3) The letter does not describe how this change in processing the groundwater could affect the concentrations of radioactive materials in the remaining materials on-site. In our phone conversation you stated that the resulting contaminated solids from the wastewater treatment facility would be placed in pond 9. NRC is concerned that Fansteel could be increasing the radioactive material concentrations in pond 9. Submit a description of how this process change will impact the radioactive concentrations in the solids being transferred to pond 9 as compared with the solids resulting from the evaporator process, and how this process change will impact the current liquid and solid material concentrations in pond 9.

Please provide this requested information, along with proposed revised pages to the Decommissioning Plan with 60 days of the date of this letter. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (301) 415-5819.

Sincerely,


Heather Astwood, Project Manager
Fuel Cycle Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards, NMSS

Docket 40-7580
License SMB-911