

January 25, 2002

Kenneth W. Coble
Radiological Protection Section
Drinking Water and Radiological Protection Division
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
525 W. Allegan St.
Lansing, MI. 48909

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR STATUS OF ETHYL CORPORATION AND MICHIGAN
SEAMLESS TUBING COMPANY

Dear Mr. Coble:

This is in response to your request for information regarding the status of two former NRC licensees.

The license for the Ethyl Corporation, which formerly authorized activities at a location in Ferndale, Michigan, was closed by inspection. A copy of the applicable NRC Inspection Report, 03090032/98001(DNMS)) is enclosed. The license for the Michigan Seamless Tube Company, which formerly authorized activities at a location in South Lyon, Michigan, was closed by in-office review of the file. A copy of our "closure" letter to files for the applicable NRC License C-04333, is also enclosed.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the *Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS)*. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If you have any additional questions, please contact Mr. Ed Kulzer at 630/829-9875 or me at 630/829-9615.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Bruce L. Jorgensen, Chief
Decommissioning Branch

Enclosures: As stated

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D. Zekind

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Should you have any questions regarding the inspection, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Ed Kulzer at (630) 829-9875, Dr. Peter Lee at (630) 829-9870 or myself at (630) 829-9615.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by

Bruce L. Jorgensen, Chief
Decommissioning Branch

Docket No. 030-90032
License No. 21-0641-01

Enclosure: Inspection Report 030-90032/98001(DNMS)

cc w/encl: N. Zotos, Dykema Gossett
C. Denton, Ethyl Corporation

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III

Docket No: 030-90032
License No. 21-0641-01

Report No: 030-90032/98001(DNMS)

Licensee: Ethyl Corporation

Facility: CMI-Tech Center

Location: 1600 Eight Mile Road
Ferndale, Michigan

Dates: September 11, 1998
November 5, 1998

Inspectors: E. L. Kulzer, CIH, CSP, Radiation Specialist
P. J. Lee, Ph.D., Radiation Specialist

Approved By: Bruce L. Jorgensen, Chief
Decommissioning Branch
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ethyl Corporation NRC Inspection Report 030-90032/98001(DNMS)

This was a survey and inspection of the Ferndale, Michigan site. The Ethyl Corporation had a license to use carbon-14 and tritium to conduct tracer studies of combustion of fuels and lubricants in engines. The site is now owned by CMI-Tech Center. Ethyl Corporation through Mr. Zotos had contacted former employees to determine where these studies took place. Mr. Zotos found that three rooms had been used and were still in their original condition. These rooms were Room C-12 (Cold Room), and Labs; Dan 3, and Dan 7. Surveys of these rooms showed no detectable radioactivity. A total of eight wipe samples were collected in these rooms and were found to be below the NRC's release guidelines for unrestricted use; no radioactivity was detectable on any of the wipe samples.

Report Details

1.0 Background

The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) authorized Ethyl Corporation to use carbon-14 (20 millicuries) and tritium (4,000 millicuries) in conducting tracer studies on fuels and lubricants. The license was issued on May 17, 1956, and expired on July 12, 1958. A file review of old license files recently disclosed that this file lacked evidence of any closeout radiation surveys to ensure any residual radioactivity met acceptable levels for unrestricted release.

2.0 Independent Measurements

a. Inspection Scope (87104)

The NRC survey included direct scanning of at least 30 percent of each of the three rooms that were identified as having been used under the license. The NRC inspectors used a Ludlum Model 2241 meter with a Model 44-9 pancake probe. Wipe samples were collected because the tritium can not be detected by any portable instruments.

b. Observations and Findings

The background reading using these instruments was approximately 40 counts per minute (cpm). Radiation levels in these areas were indistinguishable from background.

Eight wipe samples were collected in these rooms. All wipes samples analyzed had contamination levels which were below the NRC release guidelines for unrestricted use, in that no radioactivity was detectable on any of the samples.

c. Conclusions

The surveys and results of the wipe samples collected showed that the residual radioactive materials in the former Ethyl Corporation facility were within the NRC guidelines for release for unrestricted use.

3.0 Exit Management Meeting

At the conclusion of the onsite inspection of the sites, the preliminary results of the inspection were discussed with the individuals identified below. A telephone conversation with Ms. Zekind was also made on November 5, 1998, to discuss the results of the wipe samples.

PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

*M. Harvey, ATS

*J. Norton, CMI

**D. Zekind, Vice President, CMI-Tech Center

*N. Zotos, Dykema Gossett

*Attended onsite exit meeting conducted September 11, 1998.

**Via telephone conversation of November 5, 1998, discussing the sample results.

INSPECTION PROCEDURE USED

IP 87104: Decommissioning Inspection for Materials Licensees

May 10, 1996

Branch

MEMORANDUM TO: License File No. C-04333 (Terminated)
Docket No. 040-3142 (Terminated)
Michigan Seamless Tube Company

THRU: J. W. McCormick-Barger, Chief
Decommissioning Branch

FROM: Edward Kulzer, Radiation Specialist
Decommissioning Branch

SUBJECT: CLOSE OUT OF LICENSE FILE NO. C-04333 (MICHIGAN SEAMLESS
TUBE COMPANY, SOUTH LYON, MICHIGAN)

The license (Michigan Seamless Tube Company), authorized the use of 4,300 pounds of natural uranium for the extrusion of hollow shells for National Lead of Ohio. The sites where the activity was licensed to be conducted were the company facilities at South Lyon, Michigan, and Rosenberg, Texas. The Texas facility was indicated to be the main production facility, but the file was not clear as to what work, if any, was done at each location. Mr. Donald Comfort, P.E., Engineering Manager for Michigan Seamless Tubing at the South Lyon, Michigan facility, was contacted. Mr. Comfort reviewed Michigan Seamless Tube files and found three letters pertaining to the project. He sent copies of these letters to NRC Region III. The information contained in these letters indicated that the project was never developed past the planning stage. Michigan Seamless Tube Company never received the licensed material and no product was made at either the South Lyons facility or the Rosenberg facility. This was confirmed by a letter from Mr. David Wellhofer, Chief Engineer at the Rosenberg, Texas, facility. Mr. Wellhofer interviewed three former employees who had no recollection of the shells ever being made at the Texas facility.

It appears that Michigan Seamless Tube Company applied for a license based upon work they had planned to get through National Lead of Ohio. When National Lead of Ohio never ordered any product, Michigan Seamless Tube Company let the license expire. Based on the information provided to the NRC Region III office that the licensed material was never received or processed by Michigan Seamless Tube Company, continued followup is not warranted.

Region III considers this file closed and intends no further action regarding this issue.

cc: W. G. Snell, RIII
P. F. Goldberg, NMSS

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