



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET SW SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931**

April 24, 2002

Department of the Army
ATTN: Brigadier General Patricia L. Nilo
Commandant
U.S. Army Chemical School
Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri 65473-8926

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 01-02861-05/02-02

Dear General Nilo:

On April 3, 2002, the NRC completed an inspection at the Pelham Range burial area at Fort McClellan, Alabama. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether decommissioning activities authorized by the license were conducted safely and in accordance with Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requirements. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with members of your staff identified in the enclosed report. The enclosed report presents the results of this inspection. The results of the analysis of the soil samples obtained on January 28, 2002, are also included in this report.

The inspection was an examination of activities conducted under your license as they relate to radiation safety and compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations and with the conditions of your license. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel and observations of activities.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and enclosures will be available electronically for public inspection in NRC's 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).

Should you have any questions concerning this letter or report, please contact us.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Thomas R. Decker, Chief
Materials Licensing/Inspection Branch1

Docket No. 030-17584
License No. 01-02861-05

Enclosures: (See page 2)

- Enclosures: 1. NRC Inspection Report
No. 01-02861-05/02-02
- 2. Soil Sample Results

cc w/encl 1:
 Rick Button
 Environmental Protection Agency
 61 Forsyth Street
 Atlanta, GA 30303

James T. Williams
 Division of Radiation Control
 State of Alabama
 Department of Public Health
 201 Monroe Street, Suite 700
 Montgomery, AL 36104

Lisa Holstein
 Environmental Office
 Bldg. 215, 15th Street
 Fort McClellan, AL 36205-5000

PUBLIC DOCUMENT (circle one): YES NO

OFFICE	RII:DNMS													
SIGNATURE	/RA/													
NAME	OMBailey													
DATE	4/24/02													
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II

Docket No.: 030-17584

License No.: 01-02861-05

Report No.: 01-02861-05/02-02

Licensee: Department of the Army

Location: Fort McClellan, Alabama

Date: April 3, 2002

Inspector: Orysia Masnyk Bailey, Health Physicist

Approved by: Thomas R. Decker, Chief
Materials Licensing and Inspection Branch 1
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT MCCLELLAN, ALABAMA
NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 01-02861-05/02-02

This routine inspection was conducted to evaluate the licensee's progress in decommissioning the burial mound located at the Pelham Range at Fort McClellan, Alabama.

The inspector determined that the burial mound remediation was complete and shipment of the waste and contaminated dirt removed from the mound was in progress. No violations were identified.

Attachments:

List of Persons Contacted
Inspection Procedures Used
Survey Instruments Used

REPORT DETAILS

1. Scope

This special, announced inspection was conducted to determine whether decommissioning activities authorized by the license were conducted safely and in accordance with Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requirements and the licensee's approved Decommissioning Plan.

2. Observations and Findings

The Army is in the process of decommissioning a radioactive material burial mound at the Pelham Range. The inspector observed that remediation is complete. All the waste and contaminated dirt found in the burial mound has been packaged and moved to a staging area near Gate 5 at the Pelham Range to allow for removal by tractor trailers. On March 27, 2002, the licensee's materials license was amended to add this additional place of use. The licensee's contractor is nearing completion of the final survey of the burial mound site and will perform a walk over survey of the shipment staging area when the final waste shipment is complete. Prior to moving the shipping containers to the staging area, the exteriors of the containers were wipe tested for contamination and none was detected. The licensee roped off the staging area and performed a dose assessment to ensure that dose rates were below 2 mr/hr at the perimeter of the storage area. The inspector was not able to confirm these readings at the time of the inspection due to hazardous work in the area; access to the area is limited to specific times of the day.

The licensee will include all shipping papers for the waste shipments with the final survey report. Shipping papers reviewed during the inspection were found to be complete and correct.

The remaining work at the Pelham Range is as follows: completion of the burial mound and staging area surveys, completion of the "flyover" survey of the Pelham Range, and installation of ground water monitoring wells to evaluate the ground water in the area of the burial mound.

3. Conclusion

The licensee was in compliance with its approved decommissioning plan and regulatory requirements. No violations were identified.

EXIT MEETING SUMMARY

The inspector discussed the inspection results with the Radiation Safety Officer on April 3, 2002. The licensee was advised that no violations were identified.

ATTACHMENT

LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

Department of the Army, Fort McClellan, Alabama:

Lisa Holstein, Base Relocation and Closure Coordinator (BRAC)

Lee Jaye, Environmental Engineer, BRAC

John May, Radiation Safety Officer

Allied Technology Group:

Wade Fillingate, Site Manager

INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED

IP 83890 Closeout Inspection and Summary

IP 87104 Decommissioning Inspection Procedure for Materials Licenses

TABLE 1

**Co-60 AND Cs-137 CONCENTRATIONS
BY GAMMA SPECTROSCOPY
IN SOIL SAMPLES**

**FT. McCELLAN PELHAM RANGE
FT. McCELLAN, ALABAMA**

ESSAP Sample ID	NRC Region II Sample ID	Radionuclide Concentrations* (pCi/g dry weight)	
		Co-60	Cs-137
809S001	SP#7 Grid A-3	0.19 ± 0.05**	0.44 ± 0.04
809S002	SP#9 Grid A-6	0.01 ± 0.03	-0.02 ± 0.02
809S003	SP#10 Grid A-5	0.07 ± 0.06	0.23 ± 0.04
809S004	SP#11 Grid A-7	0.03 ± 0.04	0.08 ± 0.04

*The average MDC for a one hour count of soil in a 0.5L Marinelli for Co-60 is 0.06 pCi/g and for Cs-137 is 0.04 pCi/g.

**Uncertainties represent the 95% confidence level, based on total propagated uncertainties