

August 2, 2002

Director, Pennsylvania Field Office
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
315 South Allen Street
Suite 322
State College, PA 16801-4850

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR CONSULTATION ON THREATENED OR ENDANGERED
SPECIES AT THE CABOT FACILITY NEAR BOYERTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Dear Director:

The staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is reviewing a request from Cabot Corporation to renew the source material license for the Boyertown, Pennsylvania, facility. The facility is located 2.4 km (1.6 miles) northeast of Boyertown, on County Line Road (see enclosed map), in a sparsely populated area where agriculture is the primary land use. The renewal application indicates that no significant changes to operations are anticipated and that there are no plans for expansion. The operation of this facility involves some release of regulated (radioactive) material and potentially harmful chemicals, however, no releases have exceeded regulatory limits.

As part of our environmental assessment for this licensing action, we are evaluating the impact of continued operation of this facility on biota. Please let us know of any information on candidate, threatened, and endangered species or designated critical habitats that could be in the area of this Cabot facility, which we should consider in our assessment. When the draft environmental assessment is completed, a copy will be provided to you for comment.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter 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 questions, please contact Ms. Elaine S. Brummett, either by telephone at (301) 415-6606, or by e-mail at esb@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Daniel M. Gillen, Chief
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 40-6940
License No. SMB-920

Enclosure: Cabot site map

cc: T. Knapp, Cabot

Director, Pennsylvania Field Office
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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* see previous

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