

January 9, 2003

Mr. David Allard, CHP
Director
Bureau of Radiation Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 8469
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8469

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO PADEP'S COMMENTS ON NRC'S PRELIMINARY DRAFT
REPORTS ON THE CABOT-READING SITE

Dear Mr. Allard:

This letter is to inform you of our intent to address concerns raised in your July 10, 2002, letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regarding the preliminary draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Safety Evaluation Report (SER) for the Cabot Site in Reading, PA. NRC staff is considering the Commonwealth's concerns that the radiological assessment was inadequate to conclude that the Cabot license can be terminated and the site released for unrestricted use, and intends to address the issues your July letter in a revised preliminary draft EA and SER. The revised preliminary draft EA and SER will be provided first to PADEP for a 30 day review, and subsequently provided to the general public for 30 day review, similar to the process used at Cabot-Revere and other sites. Additionally, Bob Maiers of your staff requested a copy of the Reading Slag Pile Characterization report. A copy is attached.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (301) 415-7234 or Theodore Smith at (301) 415-6721.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Larry Camper, Chief
Decommissioning Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Attachment: as stated
Docket No.: 40-9027
License No.: SMC-1562

cc: Robert Maiers, PADEP

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AN: ML-030100275

Template No.: NMSS/RGN Mats_002

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