



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

APR 22 1993

Commander Dennis Bohaler
Commanding Officer
U.S. Coast Guard
Civil Engineering Unit
909 S.E. First Avenue, Room 651
Miami, Florida 33131-3050

ATTN: Ms. Zonia Reyes

Dear Commander Bohaler:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is attempting to determine the present status of a waste disposal area used by the University of Miami to dispose of low-level radioactive wastes in the approximate time span 1946-1970. The area, slightly over one acre, is in Perrine, Florida, near S.W. 127 Avenue and Coral Reef Drive. The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) has informed us that the property, formerly part of the Richmond Naval Air Station, may now be under Coast Guard control.

Ms. Zonia Reyes of your staff has been contacted on this matter and was informally provided a copy of the enclosed 1988 report, "Radiological Survey of the Former University of Miami Waste Disposal Site, Perrine, Florida." This report documents a radiological survey performed for the NRC in 1985 by our contractor, Oak Ridge Institute of Science and Education (at that time, Oak Ridge Associated Universities). The survey indicated that levels of radioactivity in the soil were below current NRC criteria for residual radioactive contamination. However, the survey indicated that there are radioactive wastes in buried containers (left undisturbed in the survey) and possible hazardous chemical contamination.

Because it was possible that the area had been remediated since 1985, it was agreed with Ms. Reyes that one of our Region II inspectors stop by the site to determine its general disposition. Our inspector, Mr. George Kuzo, visited the site with Mr. Lou Dallas from the Florida Office of Radiation Control on April 14, 1993, and Mr. Dallas revisited the area the next day to further document the site's status. It appears from this preliminary survey that the site has not been remediated. With this being the case, the NRC's immediate objective is to identify a responsible party to ensure that the site is properly fenced and posted. The fence that existed in 1985 apparently was recently destroyed by Hurricane Andrew.

NRC has initiated a program to address former burials of low-level radioactive waste, which were authorized under a section of our regulations (10 CFR 20.304) that was subsequently revoked in 1981. Since the NRC is a regulatory agency, it is important for us to identify the current party responsible for the site. NRC does not, itself, perform remediations, but relies on its licensees or other responsible parties to accomplish such tasks.

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Dennis Bohaler

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Your assistance in determining if this site is on Coast Guard property is appreciated. I am also pursuing this question with the GSA. If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 504-2569.

Sincerely,

~~Original Signed By~~

William R. Lahs
Decommissioning Section
Decommissioning and Regulatory
Issues Branch
Division of Low-Level Waste Management
and Decommissioning
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

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