

November 19, 2003

Commander
U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command
ATTN: AMSSB-RCB-RS
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5424

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 04008838/2003-001(DNMS)

Dear Sir or Madam:

On November 3, 2003, the NRC completed an inspection at the Jefferson Proving Ground. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether decommissioning activities were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements. Specially, the inspector evaluated site security and environmental monitoring programs. At the conclusion of the inspection on November 3, 2003, the NRC inspector discussed the findings with members of your staff.

The inspection consisted of an examination of decommissioning activities at the Jefferson Proving Ground as they relate to safety and compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations. Areas examined during the inspection are identified in the enclosed report. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of a selective examination of procedures and representative records, and interviews with personnel.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC did not identify any violations.

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

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this inspection.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Christopher G. Miller, Chief
Decommissioning Branch

Docket No. 04008838
License No. SUB-1435

Enclosure: Inspection Report 04008838/2003-001(DNMS)

cc w/encl: J. Kuykendall, US Army
K. Knouf, US Army
P. Cloud, US Army
J. Smith, Indiana State Department of Health

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III

Docket No:	04008838
License No:	SUB-1435
Licensee:	Department of the Army
Facility:	Jefferson Proving Ground
Location:	Madison, Indiana
Date:	November 3, 2003
Inspector:	P. J. Lee, Ph.D., CHP, Radiation Specialist
Approved By:	Christopher G. Miller, Chief Decommissioning Branch, DNMS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Jefferson Proving Grounds NRC Inspection Report 04008838/2003-001(DNMS)

This routine decommissioning inspection covered aspects of licensee's site security and environmental monitoring programs.

Security and Posting

- There were no findings related to the security program.

Environmental Monitoring Program

- There were no findings related to the environmental monitoring program.

Report Details

1.0 Background

Jefferson Proving Ground (JPG) was originally issued Source Material License No. SUB-1435, on December 16, 1983, which authorized the possession of depleted uranium (DU) for projectile testing. The DU projectiles were fired at soft targets and impacted on the ground beyond the targets. Projectiles were periodically recovered from the impact area and stored onsite prior to shipment back to the manufacturer. Firing of DU projectiles continued until September 1994. Overall, the JPG firing range comprises 52,000 acres. The DU impact area consists of approximately 2,000 acres located in the south central portion of the firing range. Approximately 80,000 kilograms of DU projectiles remain in the impact area.

On October 11, 1995, representatives from the Indiana State Department of Health contacted the NRC Division of Waste Management regarding concerns about the degraded condition of the fence line surrounding the firing range. The NRC issued a Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) dated October 13, 1995, confirming actions to be taken regarding the fencing and security of the firing range as agreed upon during an October 12, 1995, conference call with Army staff. The CAL also confirmed the NRC's understanding that Army staff would provide a plan to ensure adequate security of radioactive material at JPG and to ensure that perimeter gates were monitored or locked. The licensee documented the security program requirements in the JPG Security Plan.

On September 22, 2003, the licensee submitted a license amendment request for the JPG site. The licensee requested a 5-year renewable possession-only license.

2.0 Security and Posting (87104)

a. Inspection Scope

The inspector reviewed the JPG security Plan, which detailed the licensee's security program. The inspector interviewed individuals responsible for site security and toured the perimeter of the DU impact area and the security fence surrounding the facility.

b. Observations and Findings

To provide for security, a fence surrounds the JPG firing range area, and all gates are locked. Access to the site is restricted to those individuals authorized by the Site Manager. A full-time employee monitors and maintains the security fence. The security fence was inspected daily by the licensee. The inspector noted that the security fence was well maintained.

The licensee maintained barricades on all roads approaching the DU area. The licensee posted warning signs around the perimeter of the DU area that included the radiation hazard symbol and the words "Caution, Radioactive Materials." The postings were adequate to prevent accidental or unintentional entry into the DU contaminated area.

c. Conclusions

There were no findings related to the security program.

3.0 Environmental Monitoring Program (87104)

a. Inspection Scope

The inspector reviewed the licensee's environmental radiation monitoring program and the environmental monitoring reports for the years of 2002 and 2003 to assess potential migration of DU from the DU impact area.

c. Observations and Findings

The U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine conducted environmental monitoring every six months. The inspector toured the locations where samples were taken. The inspector did not observe any degradation in the ground water monitoring wells.

The soil, sediment, surface water and ground water samples did not contain uranium activity above the background. Therefore, there were no indications of migration of DU from the DU impact area.

c. Conclusions

There were no findings related to the environmental monitoring program.

4.0 Exit Meeting

The inspectors met with Mr. P. Cloud of the Soldier and Biological Chemical Command on November 3, 2003, summarizing the preliminary findings. The licensee did not identify any of the documents or processes reviewed by the inspectors as proprietary.

PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

- J. Kuykendall, Soldier and Biological Chemical Command
- * P. Cloud, Soldier and Biological Chemical Command
- K. Knouf, Site Manager, JPG
- * Indicates individual present during the exit meeting on November 3, 2003.

INSPECTION PROCEDURE USED

IP 87104: Decommissioning Inspection Procedure for Materials Licensees