

H. L. Price, Director  
Division of Licensing and Regulation

DEC 24 1959

Curtis A. Nelson, Director  
Division of Inspection

Curtis A. Nelson

**REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED DISCHARGE OF  
RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL INTO MOSQUITO CREEK, PENN.**

Symbol: **INS:PAM**

In answer to your request of December 21, 1959 for the subject investigation, we have developed the following information:

1. Mosquito Creek is a tributary of the west branch of the Susquehanna River, that traverses a part of the 80 square mile tract in central Pennsylvania (about 10 miles north of Phillipsburg) which has been bought or leased for 99 years by the Curtiss-Wright Corporation. A Radioactive Materials Laboratory and a Research Reactor are located at this site. Curtiss-Wright Corporation holds licenses from the AEC both for possession and use of radioactive isotopes and also for operation of the 4 megawatt swimming pool reactor. Curtiss-Wright also holds a valid license from the State of Pennsylvania (Industrial Waste Permit No. 1907, dated March 26, 1958) which authorizes the discharge of liquid waste to Meeker Run (a stream which flows into Mosquito Creek before Mosquito Creek leaves the Curtiss-Wright property).
2. The radioisotope handling facilities at the Curtiss-Wright Research and Development Center were inspected by AEC inspectors for compliance with license conditions and with the rules and regulations of the AEC on March 4 and 5, 1958. The only items of noncompliance found were related to the use of proper caution signs, labels and signals.
3. On December 22, 1959 Mr. M. T. Beam, Health Physicist at the Curtiss-Wright site stated to Dr. P. A. Morris, AEC Hq. by phone that the only discharges of radioactive liquid materials to Meeker Run had been carefully controlled at the Waste Treatment Plant and were well within the values

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allowed by 10 CFR Part 20, Standards for Protection Against Radiation, for unrestricted areas. The activity discharged probably arose from decontamination and laundry activities and is thought by Mr. Beam to be mostly cobalt 60 and iridium 192. No detectable alpha activity has been observed.

4. On November 25, 1959 we wrote you a memorandum and attachments concerning the Curtiss-Wright Corporation, Research Division, Quehanna, Pennsylvania, License No. 37-2416-2, 10 CFR 30 - Suspected Spillage of Iridium-192 During Transit. The investigation concerning this suspected spillage indicated no evidence of contamination.

In view of the above information, which we believe supports the view that it is extremely unlikely that there has been carelessness in handling fissionable material or that excessive radioactive materials have been dumped into Mosquito Creek, we do not plan to contact Mr. T. McKinney, President, Mosquito Creek Sportsmen's Association, Frenchville, Pennsylvania, at this time.