



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
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December 20, 2001

Abraham Ferdas
Director, Division of Hazardous Site Cleanup
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3
1650 Arch Street (3HS00)
Philadelphia, PA 19103

SUBJECT: SAFETY LIGHT CORPORATION

Dear Mr. Ferdas:

This letter requests EPA to conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) Preliminary Assessment of the Safety Light Corporation (SLC) site in Bloomsburg, PA for the purposes of scoring this site in EPA's Hazardous Ranking System. The SLC site is an active site, licensed by the NRC for the use of byproduct material to make tritium exit signs, and for the characterization and decommissioning of contaminated facilities, equipment and land from past activities. However, it seems improbable that SLC will be able to comply with NRC decommissioning financial assurance requirements at the time of the next license renewal in December 2004.

We are arranging a joint meeting with representatives from our federal offices and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) to develop a shared vision and path forward for the SLC site. Recently, we have contacted Elizabeth Zanowiak, EPA Site Assessment Manager for the SLC to coordinate an agenda and proposed participants for a January 24, 2002 meeting.

To support preparations for the meeting and initiation of the CERCLA assessment processes, enclosed are the results and conclusions from the NRC review of the SLC site Decommissioning Cost Estimates (DCEs) and Decommissioning Plan. The NRC staff analyses and reports from these reviews are described in the enclosed letter to SLC. Given the significantly larger DCEs and the lack of sufficient funding to initiate any new significant site remediation activities, we would like to discuss in greater detail EPA's Superfund Program and the role that EPA might play in the eventual remediation of this site. We especially want to explore the initiation of a Responsible Party Cleanup for removal actions, in addition to the mechanisms and steps for possible remedial actions at the Bloomsburg site, if it were listed on the National Priorities List.

A. Ferdas
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 3

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We have written to David Allard and James Snyder at PADEP, and they have agreed to support our joint meeting. We would also want to discuss the PADEP processes under their Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act and to detail the necessary coordination between our agencies.

We anticipate a productive meeting based on your staff's participation and a shared meeting agenda that should be developed over the next few weeks. For any questions, Marie Miller, Project Manager for the SLC site, Frank Costello, my Deputy Director, and I are available at (610) 337-5205, 5283 or 5281, respectively.

Thank you for your continued cooperation on this complex decommissioning site.

Sincerely,

Original signed by George Pangburn

George Pangburn, Director
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Enclosure:
NRC letter to SLC w/enclosure

cc w/encl:
Peter Schaul, Remedial Branch Chief, EPA Region 3
Elizabeth Zanowiak, Site Assessment Manager, EPA Region 3
William Belanger, Health Physicist, EPA Region 3
Sherri Minnick, Health Physicist, EPA Region 3

cc w/o encl:
David Allard, PADEP
James Snyder, PADEP

A. Ferdas
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 3

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