

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Date: July 19, 2005

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION RECORD

Time: 0930

Mail Control NA License No(s) 19-10306-01 Docket No(s) 03004552
or Report No(s).

Name of Licensee: U.S. Army Research, Development & Engineering Command

Name of Participant(s): Gary Wright (US Army RDECOM RSO)
Frank Vavra (USEPA, RIII)
David Healy (Maryland DE)
Cindy Powels (US Army Garrison - DSHE)
Jim Schmidt (USNRC, RI)

Telephone No. NA (conference call)

Subject: Disposition of Elevated Sediment Area at WRMDF

(NOTE: This will be used as the
Documents Title in ADAMS)

Summary: This phone call was initiated by the NRC to discuss the disposition of a small area of the former Westwood Radioactive Material Disposal Facility (WRMDF) located within the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG). This area was recently found to have elevated Cs-137 sediment levels above those expected and reported in 1998 by the licensee. These levels, which ranged up to about 189 pCi/gm, were found as part of final site surveys required by USEPA to support completion/closure of several ongoing CERCLA actions at APG. Based upon a comparison of the original survey results provided to the NRC (submitted May 7, 1998) used to support release of this area from license control, and the contamination levels recently identified, it is likely that the original survey was did not correctly characterize the small head wall area of the WRMDF site. The question posed is what NRC required action(s) need to be taken for this formally licensed facility.

The NRC requires that the following actions be taken:

1) RDECOM, the licensee, is responsible for submitting a document to the NRC that describes what areas have been found to have unexpected levels of radioactivity, the extent of the radioactivity, what actions they intend to take relative to dealing with the elevated levels, and what is the basis for the proposed actions. Consistent with the original request for unrestricted release for this area, the basis for any requested proposed actions should be in accordance with 10 CFR 20 Subpart E (i.e. < 25 mrem/year). Following submittal of this and other information as

required, the NRC will approve actions that will eventually allow this area to be re-released for unrestricted use.

2) RDECOM is responsible for controlling activities associated within the impacted area under their existing license until such time that a decision is rendered relative to disposition of the area.

As part of the phone conversation, Frank Vavra indicated that the impacted area would be removed from the CERCLA release activities until such time that the NRC re-releases the identified area from control under NRC License No. 19-10306-01.

Action Required: Enter this phone discussion into ADAMS

Document Availability: Publicly Available Non-Publicly Available

Immediate Release Normal Release Date Delay Release Date

Prepared & SISP Review Completed By: / RA / JWS Date: 7/20/05