

Lic. # 70-36
For RIII Lic. file

MAY 31 1990

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MEMORANDUM FOR: George Bidinger, Chief, Uranium Fuel Section, IMNS
FROM: Donald J. Sreniawski, Fuel Facilities and Decommissioning
Sites Group, Region III
SUBJECT: ABB-COMBUSTION ENGINEERING/HEMATITE FACILITY REQUEST

This refers to ABB-Combustion Engineering's (ABB-CE) letter dated May 14, 1990 (copy attached) requesting approval to fill the evacuated soil floor of Building 253 at its Hematite Facility. The construction plan calls for the area to be then covered by concrete.

In a May 18, 1990 telephone discussion, Mr. James Rode, the Hematite facility plant manager stated that records of the extent of the uranium contamination in the soil below the Building 253 floor will be maintained as required by 10 CFR Part 70.25(g).

The Region III Fuels Facilities and Decommissioning Sites Group recommends that ABB-CE be allowed to fill the floor area of Building 253 based on the following evaluations:

1. The facility is not being released for unrestricted use, it will be included as part of the eventual entire facility's decommissioning.
2. The remedial work has reduced the levels of uranium soil contamination in the new construction area to concentrations lower than those in the adjoining area. Current levels reach a maximum of 82 pCi/gm versus original readings of 680 pCi/gm.
3. The licensee has concerns that further evacuation to remove contaminated soil could endanger the building structures.

Since the commitment to refrain from filling the excavated area until the NRC approves was made to your section, the release to permit ABB-CE to backfill the Building 253 area should also be from your section as per our May 23, 1990 discussion.

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George Bidinger

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If I can be of any assistance, please inform me.

Donald J. Sreniawski
Fuel Facilities and Decommissioning
Sites Group

Attachment: 1tr dtd 5/14/90

cc w/o attachment:
C. Haughney, NMSS
G. France, RIII
W. Axelson, RIII

(initials)
RIII
(initials)
Sreniawski/jl
5/30/90

(initials)
RIII
(initials)
Mallett

RIII
(initials)
Norelius
5/30/90



May 14, 1990

Donald J. Sreniawski
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region III
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Dear Mr. Sreniawski:

ABB-Combustion Engineering has completed spot cleaning of the Building 253 construction site soil subsequent to the sampling conducted with Mr. George France during November of 1989. A revised map showing the current activity levels is enclosed.

Although the average soil contamination level for this site is only 17 pCi/g, one small area centering at 5E, 28N remains significantly above the decontamination limits previously defined. This area has now been excavated to a depth six feet below the planned floor level. As a consequence, two column footings supporting the are in jeopardy (these footings are only two feet deep).

Further excavation is also impeded by the fact that this area is currently one to two feet below the water table and refills within 24 hours of pumping. The activity in the water is $5.04E-06$ microcuries/ml (17% MPC).

Since the adjacent Building 240 subfloor is still contaminated, excavation is already into the water table, and the column footings are endangered, further efforts at decontamination appear to be futile. As the area in question is six feet below the floor level, and the average contamination level for the entire area meets the guidelines, we request that you recommend to NRC headquarters that approval be granted to fill the excavation and resume construction.

Cordially yours,

James A. Rode
Plant Manager

HEE/sld/8043

Enclosure

MAY 17 1990

ABB Combustion Engineering Nuclear Power

BUILDING 253 CONSTRUCTION AREA

Residual Contamination Levels (picocuries per gram)

05/10/90

