

September 9, 2005

Mr. Wayne Reiber
Manager, Environmental Assessment and Remediation
Cabot Corporation
157 Concord Road
P.O. Box 7001
Billerica, MA 01821-7001

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF CABOT'S REVISED DECOMMISSIONING PLAN AND
RADIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE CABOT-READING SITE

Dear Mr. Reiber:

This letter is in response to your June 14, 2005, proposed response to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) request for additional information (RAI) for the Cabot Reading, Pennsylvania, site. On March 21, 2003, the NRC RAI identified three areas where additional information was necessary in order for the staff to complete its review of Cabot's Decommissioning Plan (DP), Radiological Assessment (RA) and additional information provided by Cabot in November 2002.

The NRC staff has completed an expanded acceptance review of your submitted DP and RA. The expanded acceptance review is an administrative review designed to identify significant deficiencies in DPs. We have determined that your DP submission is sufficiently complete to initiate a detailed technical review. However, NRC staff note several general areas where additional information will be necessary. Specific details will be provided upon completion of full review of Cabot's DP and RA. However, in general terms, we expect to have questions related to the following:

- (1) Use of the rip-rap cover design
- (2) Rock durability for the rip rap cover
- (3) Quality assurance/quality control for rock emplacement
- (4) Site-specific factors referenced in the Radiological Assessment
- (5) Financial assurance for the site. This information was requested in NRC's August 2004 letter

In accordance with the requirements in Subpart L - Informal Hearing Procedures for NRC Adjudications, of 10 CFR Part 2, as amended on January 14, 2004 (69 FR 2182), the NRC will provide an opportunity for informal hearing (10 CFR 1206) to any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding.

W. Reiber

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This letter will be made available electronically in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publically Available Records (PARS) component of the NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

The NRC staff suggest meeting to discuss the revised DP and RA as we develop our request for additional information.

Please contact Ted Smith at (301) 415-6721, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Daniel M. Gillen, Deputy Director
Decommissioning Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 40-9027
License No.: SMC-1562

cc: Cabot Reading Site Mailing List

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