

January 26, 2006

Ms. Pamela Shellenberger
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Northeast Region Endangered Species Division
315 South Allen Street, Suite 322
State College, PA 16801-4850

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THE ENDANGERED SPECIES
AND CRITICAL HABITAT FOR A PROPOSED RIPRAP COVER IN READING,
PENNSYLVANIA

Dear Ms. Shellenberger,

Cabot Corporation (Cabot), a licensee of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), is in the process of terminating their license. As part of the license termination process, Cabot has proposed the addition of a riprap erosion barrier on a slope, where slag containing elevated levels of radiological isotopes of uranium and thorium was placed in the mid-1960's by Cabot's predecessor. The site has been used for industrial, metals refining activities for over 100 years and has a large quantity of non-radiological slag as well.

The action area is near Buttonwood Street and River Road easement in west Reading, as identified on the enclosed figure from Cabot's Radiological Assessment (2005). Cabot's Radiological Assessment is available electronically as document number ML053570015 at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm.html>. The site is located on U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 Minute topographic map "Reading Quadrangle" at about 40E 20' North and 75E 57' West. The property is currently owned by the City of Reading, Pennsylvania, and is the area of a major City redevelopment project, near the Schuylkill River.

For complex sites, licensees are required to submit Decommissioning Plan (DP) which describes activities to be taken to ensure the site will be safe for license termination. Cabot's DP is also available electronically as ML051330369.

Please provide information that you may have regarding the presence of endangered or threatened species or critical habitat in the action area.

After assessing the information provided by you, we will determine what additional actions are necessary to comply with the Section 7 consultation process.

Please send replies within 45 days of receipt of this request to the NRC Document Control Desk, Washington DC 20555-0001 and to Ted Smith, Mailstop T-7E18, Washington DC 20555-0001.

P. Shellenberger

- 2 -

If you have any questions, please contact me directly at (301) 415-6721, or at tbs1@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Theodore Smith, Project Manager
Decommissioning Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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

Enclosure:
Site Location Map

P. Shellenberger

- 2 -

January 26, 2006

If you have any questions, please contact me directly at 301 415-6721, or by e-mail, at tbs1@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Theodore Smith, Project Manager
Decommissioning Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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

Enclosure;
Site Location Map

DISTRIBUTION:
DCD r/f

ML060260123

OFFICE	DWMEP:PM	DWMEP:SC	DWMEP:SC
NAME	TSmith	CCraig	BJDavis
DATE	1/13/06	1/24/06	1/25/06

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

**Enclosure
Site Location Map**



<p style="text-align: center;">SCALE FEET</p> <p style="text-align: center;">0 2,000 4,000</p>	<p>NORTH</p>	<p>FIGURE 1-1</p> <p>Site Location Map</p> <p>READING SLAG PILE SITE</p>
<p><small>SOURCE: USGS, Reading, PA, 7.5 Minute Quadrangle</small></p>		<p><small>ST Environmental Professionals, Inc. STEP Project Number 90C057 May, 2005</small></p>