

40-7102



SHIELDALLOY METALLURGICAL CORPORATION

C. SCOTT EVES
VICE PRESIDENT - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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Mr. Gary Comfort
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop T-8D16
Washington, DC 20555

June 7, 1995

VIA: Fax and US Mail

RE: Change in schedule for quarterly monitoring License # SMB-743

Dear Mr. Comfort:

The purpose of this letter is to request permission from the NRC to accelerate the quarterly monitoring requirement for Shieldalloy Metallurgical Corporations (SMC) Newfield facility. Typically, the quarterly monitoring and surveillance for the third quarter would be conducted during early July, 1995. The work that is conducted under this survey includes, employee monitoring, (TLD and breathing zone sampling) large area air monitoring, contamination surveys, environmental TLD exchange, instrument evaluation, and source material inventory. Historically, these efforts have been conducted during the production of ferrocolumbium using pyrochlore as a raw material. The production of ferrocolumbium is a batch process rather than a continuous operation.

SMC requests that NRC permit that the quarterly monitoring and survey work for the third quarter of 1995 be performed during the latter half of June rather than during July. The reason for this requested change is that SMC will be producing ferrocolumbium using columbium oxide rather than pyrochlore during this time period. Unlike pyrochlore, columbium oxide does not have elevated levels of radioactivity associated with it thereby allowing an evaluation of potential personnel exposures and ambient radiological conditions during non source material operations.

This requested change will result in performing the monitoring less than three weeks ahead of when it typically would be done. The TLD monitoring program will continue unabated with the TLD's just being exchanged earlier than typical. Since historically there have been no readings that have been significantly higher during one or another specific quarter, and since personnel exposure evaluations are based on annual exposures calculated from the quarterly

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monitoring, there will be no significant data loss as a result of the requested change in the survey dates.

SMC is prepared to conduct the third quarter sampling on the revised schedule beginning the second full week in June so a rapid response from the NRC to this request is requested and will be appreciated.

If you have any questions or if you need additional information, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Scott Eves", with a stylized flourish at the end.

C. Scott Eves