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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 5, 1995

Mr. C. Scott Eves, Vice President
Environmental Services
Shieldalloy Metallurgical Corporation
P.O. Box 768
Newfield, NJ 08344

SUBJECT: TIMELINESS OF DECOMMISSIONING ACTIVITIES

Dear Mr. Eves:

In July 1994, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission promulgated a rule for Timeliness in Decommissioning of Materials Facilities (59 FR 36026). The rule established a schedule for licensees to follow when decommissioning a site and included schedule requirements for the submission of a site decommissioning plan (SDP). Beginning in December 1994, the NRC informed sites listed on the Site Decommissioning Management Plan (SDMP) of the Timeliness Rule and the required schedule. However, under the provision of the revised 10 CFR 40.42 (f)(2), the Commission may approve an alternative schedule for submission of an SDP.

As you are aware, the NRC has initiated the development of an environmental impact statement (EIS) to evaluate alternatives for decommissioning of the Shieldalloy, Cambridge, Ohio facility. Development of the EIS was prompted by Shieldalloy's preference for stabilization in place. Because development of the EIS could substantially affect the design of the SDP, it would not be prudent to develop an SDP for the Cambridge, Ohio facility, until the EIS is completed and a record of decision (ROD) is issued by the Commission.

The current schedule for the development of the EIS indicates that the final EIS will be published in late 1996 and will be followed by the ROD. After the ROD is issued, Shieldalloy will begin development of the SDP which should include a schedule for decommissioning conforming to the requirements of 10 CFR 40.42 (g) or (h). NRC staff expects that the SDP will be submitted within six months after the ROD is published. However, the schedule does not comport with the schedule described in the timeliness of decommissioning rule. Nevertheless, pursuant to 10 CFR 40.42 (f)(2), the staff has determined that this alternate schedule for the submission of an SDP is necessary to the effective conduct of decommissioning operations and presents no undue risk from radiation to the public health and safety and is otherwise in the public interest.

No action by Shieldalloy concerning this alternate SDP schedule is necessary unless Shieldalloy objects to this alternate schedule, in which case you should respond within 30 days of the date of this letter.

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C. Scott Eves

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If you have any questions, please contact James Kennedy, NRC Project Manager for this facility, at (301)-415-6668.

Sincerely,

[Original signed by:]

Michael F. Weber, Chief
Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning
Projects Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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cc: Shieldalloy Cambridge
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