



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 7, 1994

The Honorable Frank R. Lautenberg
United States Senator
Barrington Commons
208 White Horse Pike
Suites 18-19
Barrington, New Jersey 08007-1322

Dear Senator Lautenberg:

I am responding to your letter to Chairman Selin, of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, dated February 3, 1994 (Enclosure 1). Your letter requests NRC to review the concerns of Mayor Marshall of the Borough of Newfield regarding health effects from the Shieldalloy Metallurgical Corporation (Shieldalloy) facility located in Newfield, New Jersey. Mayor Marshall's concerns are contained in a letter which he addressed to Mr. Donald Schneider, Environmental Health Coordinator of the Gloucester County Health Department. We have included a copy of this letter (Enclosure 2) as well as Mr. Schneider's response to Mayor Marshall (Enclosure 3) for your information.

Although NRC has not performed statistical health studies in the Newfield area, NRC does evaluate potential environmental effects through environmental assessments and safety reviews developed during licensing actions. NRC also periodically inspects the facility to ensure that 10 CFR Part 20 limits for radiological exposures and emissions are met by the licensee. These evaluations are intended to ensure that the licensed operations are conducted in a manner such that radiological exposures to individuals do not exceed our standards for protection.

NRC is presently developing an updated environmental assessment and safety evaluation in response to Shieldalloy's license renewal request dated June 2, 1992. Furthermore, an environmental impact statement is being developed to evaluate Shieldalloy's proposal to dispose of radioactive material at their Newfield facility. As part of this review, NRC held a public scoping meeting in the Newfield area last December, and will solicit further comments from the public throughout this evaluation process.

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) recently contacted NRC about developing a proposed health study of the environment in Newfield. NRC plans to assist ATSDR in its study by providing documentation

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March 7, 1994

The Honorable Frank R. Lautenberg 2

on the Shieldalloy facility. NRC will consider the ATSDR results in future evaluations of any licensing actions at Shieldalloy.

I trust this reply responds to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
James M. Taylor

James M. Taylor
Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosures:

1. Ltr to Chairman Selin dtd 2/3/94
2. Ltr to Donald Schneider dtd 1/20/94
3. Ltr to Mayor Marshall dtd 2/1/94

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Docket 40-7102

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