

May 14, 2007

Mr. James Woolford, Director  
Office of Superfund Remediation  
and Technology Innovation  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
M.S. 5201P  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE  
DECOMMISSIONING OF THE KAISER ALUMINUM AND CHEMICAL  
CORPORATION SITE IN TULSA, OKLAHOMA

Dear Mr. Woolford:

I am writing in response to your letter, dated March 21, 2007, concerning the decommissioning of the Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation site in Tulsa, Oklahoma. On December 21, 2006, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) consulted with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) because the site has post-remediation residual radioactivity levels that exceed the values for thorium-232 in soil in the 2002 Memorandum of Understanding between NRC and EPA on Consultation and Finality on Decommissioning and Decontamination of Contaminated Sites. In your letter, you stated: "In EPA's view, NRC should select and implement institutional controls to ensure no human access to the subsurface portion of the site with thorium contamination in excess of the Table 1 value."

In support of its determination, the NRC staff reviewed the licensee's final status survey reports and concluded that the post-remediation residual radioactivity levels at the site will not result in a dose to the public in excess of 25 mrem/yr., and are as low as is reasonably achievable. Therefore, the site meets NRC's criteria for unrestricted release in Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 20.1402. Because the site meets the criteria for unrestricted use in 10 CFR 20.1402, NRC will not require the implementation of institutional controls. Thus, the NRC will not implement the recommendations provided in your March 21, 2007, letter.

We thank you for providing your views on the Kaiser site. If you have any questions regarding this letter, or the decommissioning activities at the Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation site, please contact Mr. Keith McConnell, Deputy Director, Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery Licensing Directorate, at 301-415-7295.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Larry W. Camper, Director  
Division of Waste Management  
and Environmental Protection  
Office of Federal and State Materials  
and Environmental Management Programs

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