



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

August 23, 2001

Lt. Colonel Kristin Swenson
Department of the Air Force
USAF Radioisotope Committee
HQ AFMOA/SGZR
110 Luke Ave, Suite 405
Bolling AFB, DC 20322-7050

SUBJECT: TERMINATED LICENSE REVIEW

Dear Lt. Col. Swenson:

On August 21, 2001, the NRC concluded its review of a terminated byproduct material license previously issued to McClellan Air Force Base, California. Details of this technical review are provided in the enclosure to this letter. In summary, the Air Force was licensed by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to possess radioactive material for use in research and development activities. The locations of use were listed as McClellan and Eielson Air Force Bases. AEC Byproduct Materials License 04-07177-02 was issued during April 1962, but expired during July 1965. Review of docket file records did not provide adequate disposition information for the radioactive material or final radiological status of the locations of use. As a result, the NRC elected to conduct an independent review of this license file.

Based on our technical review of the docket file, we have determined that the radioactive material was transferred to other AEC licenses and subsequently to Air Force Permits following the issuance of the Air Force master materials license in 1985. The locations of use were decontaminated by the Air Force. The NRC confirmed that the locations of use were free of radioactive material, and the buildings have since been released by the Air Force for unrestricted use. Since the radioactive material and the locations of use were accounted for, this concludes our review of this terminated byproduct material file.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Dr. D. Blair Spitzberg, Chief, Fuel Cycle & Decommissioning Branch, at (817) 860-8191 or Mr. Robert Evans at (817) 860-8234.

Sincerely,

/LHowell for/

Dwight D. Chamberlain, Director
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No.: None
License No.: 04-07717-02

Enclosure: Terminated License Status Report

bcc w/enclosure (via ADAMS distrib):

EW Merschoff

DD Chamberlain

LL Howell

DB Spitzberg

CL Cain

AD Gaines

RJ Evans

JTBuckley, NMSS/DWM/DCB

NMIB/NMLB

MIS System

RIV Nuclear Materials File - 5th Floor

DOCUMENT NAME: s:\dnms\fcdb\rje\10717701.wpd Final r:_dnms

RIV:DNMS:FCDB	C:FCDB	NMLB	C:NMLB	D:DNMS
RJ Evans	DB Spitzberg	AD Gaines	CL Cain	DD Chamberlain
<i>/RA/</i>	<i>/RA/</i>	<i>/RA/</i>	<i>/RA/</i>	<i>/LHowell for/</i>
08/21/01	08/22/01	08/22/01	08/22/01	08/23/01

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ENCLOSURE

Terminated License Status Report

Final ORNL Score: 115

Docket No. None

License No. 04-07177-02

Licensee Name: Department of the Air Force (Air Force)

Site Names: Building 628, McClellan Central Laboratory
Operating Location 202, Building 1183, Eielson Air Force Base

Site Addresses: McClellan Air Force Base, California
Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska

Regional Contact: Robert Evans, PE, CHP, Health Physicist
Decommissioning & Inspection Branch
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety
Region IV

Status Summary:

By letter dated February 8, 1962, the Air Force submitted a license renewal request to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) for Byproduct Materials License 04-07177-01. This license was a broadscope license that authorized possession of radioactive material for laboratory research and development activities. The original application was returned to the Air Force because it was not signed. The Air Force resubmitted the renewal application to the AEC by letter dated March 26, 1962. License 04-07177-01 subsequently expired on March 31, 1962.

Since License 04-07177-01 had expired, the AEC reissued the license as 04-07177-02 on April 10, 1962. This license allowed the Air Force to possess any byproduct material for use in research and development as well as hydrogen-3 for use as neutron generator target material and irradiated quartz or aluminum targets for storage use only. The location of use was listed as the McClellan Central Laboratory.

By letter dated July 11, 1963, the Air Force submitted a license amendment request to the AEC, in part, to add two additional locations of use. The new locations were Eielson Air Force Base and Yokota (Japan) Air Base. Amendment 1 to License 04-07177-02 was issued on July 16, 1963, but this amendment erroneously stated that the only authorized location of use was Eielson Air Force Base.

Amendment 2 to the license was issued on September 20, 1963. This amendment corrected the license error by listing two authorized locations of use, McClellan and Eielson Air Force Bases. The AEC excluded the Yokota location from the license because it was not within the geographic jurisdiction of the AEC. License 04-7177-02 expired on July 31, 1965, without being renewed.

The radioactive material in the possession of the Air Force at McClellan Air Force Base under License 04-07177-02 was most likely transferred to AEC License 04-09951-01 followed by Air Force Permit 04-09951-1AFP. (The NRC issued a master material license to the Air Force during June 1985, and the Air Force immediately began converting all active NRC licenses to radioactive material permits at that time.) The material in the possession of the Air Force at Eielson Air Force Base was most likely transferred to AEC License 50-13057-01 followed by Air Force Permit 09-30272-1AFP. In other words, the radioactive material previously authorized under License 04-07177-02 was transferred to other AEC licenses, followed by Air Force Permits, following the expiration of License 04-07177-02.

During December 1991, the NRC concluded a confirmatory survey of the McClellan Central Laboratory, Building 628, at McClellan Air Force Base. The NRC concurred with the release of the building for unrestricted use, indicating that the building had been properly decontaminated and was ready for unrestricted release. The building was free released by the licensee. Buried wastes have been identified at McClellan Air Force Base, and reclamation of these wastes were being conducted under Air Force oversight under the master materials license.

The NRC conducted a review of Building 1183 at Eielson Air Force Base during July 1996. The inspector was satisfied that Building 1183 had been properly decontaminated and released for unrestricted use; although the inspector questioned whether radioactive wastes had been buried at Eielson Air Force Base. In response to the NRC's concerns about the potential for buried wastes, by letter dated May 10, 2001, the Air Force concluded that "it is unclear as to whether or not waste disposal was in fact conducted at Eielson Air Force Base. No records were found that defined, identified, or verified the location of a burial site at Eielson Air Force Base." Following the transfer and/or disposal of all radioactive material, the Air Force terminated Permit 09-30272-1AFP during April 2001.

In conclusion, Region IV recommends the closure of this terminated byproduct material file because the radioactive material had been transferred to other AEC licenses followed by Air Force Permits. The buildings listed in the license application were confirmed by the NRC to be free of radioactive material and have since been released for unrestricted use. Buried wastes were being reclaimed at McClellan under Air Force oversight, but the Air Force has concluded that there is no documented evidence of radioactive wastes being buried at Eielson Air Force Base.