

PRESENTATION ON SDMP  
TO MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP

APRIL 22, 1992

**Purpose:** To address and be responsive to Mayor Cameron's concerns regarding the Heritage Minerals site in Lakehurst, N.J.

Tim Martin, Regional Administrator, Region I, had a conflict and was unable to personally attend.

Introduce self and Marie Miller. Appreciate the opportunity to address the Township Council.

**Agenda:** History of contaminated sites and NRC's effort to assure timely and sufficient cleanup of residual radioactivity.

Response to specific concerns or issues associated with the Heritage Minerals site.

Question and answer session.

History of contaminated sites and NRC's effort to assure cleanup.

1. AEC and NRC - about 20,000 licenses terminated over the last 40 years. Licensees required to decommission facilities (reduce residual radioactivity in land, ground water, buildings, equipment to allow release for unrestricted use).
  - some sites have never decommissioned after cessation of operations, or have not decommissioned properly.
2. Government Accounting Office has repeatedly and critically reviewed NRC decommissioning requirements and practices since 1976.
3. In August 1989, former NRC Chairman Carr testified before the Subcommittee on Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources, chaired by Congressman Synar on decommissioning and decontamination requirements for closing nuclear facilities. This prompted increased staff and Commission attention to existing and forthcoming decommissioning requirements, policies, and site-specific actions.
4. The Commission subsequently directed the NRC staff to develop a detailed list of contaminated sites throughout the country that included schedules and descriptions of site cleanup actions. The Heritage Minerals site was included on this initial list. This list, together with an integrated management approach to providing regulatory oversight for the decommissioning of these sites, constituted the Site Decommissioning Management Program, which was first forwarded

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to the Commission in March 1990.

5. Objective of the Site Decommissioning Management Program is the timely cleanup of the listed sites (and those sites that may be added to the list in the future) and the subsequent removal of the sites from the list. IMPLEMENTATION:

A. definition of project management plan, including criteria for placement of sites on the SDMP list

- \* Overall program management provided by NRC HQ.
- \* Site-specific project management divided among HQ and regional Offices (Ms. Miller is the project manager for Heritage Minerals).

B. site identification

C. site prioritization - puts health and safety first, but a pragmatic approach recognizing that prompt NRC action may result in early and effective resolution of simple issues.

- \* timeliness of action needed
- \* status of regulatory efforts
- \* knowledge of responsible party
- \* Congressional commitments

A weighted total score for each site is used to place each in one of three priority categories (high; medium; low)

(HERITAGE is a medium priority site based on its having been, at the time of its placement on the SDMP list, in the process of completing certain decommissioning activities for which prompt regulatory action could possibly result in early and effective decommissioning.)

D. schedules and resources needed for NRC pursuit of site cleanup - 7 basic steps for site cleanup

- \* site characterization
- \* development and submittal of decommissioning plan
- \* NRC review and approval of the plan
- \* plan implementation by licensee

(HERITAGE has completed decontamination work except for the monazite pile and awaits our decision on their proposal for disposal)

- \* performance, documentation, submittal of licensee's final site survey
- \* performance and documentation of NRC's confirmatory survey
- \* license termination

E. resolution of policy issues associated with these contaminated sites, including the minimization of future contaminated site problems.

6. Current status of the SDMP - on 4/8/92, the Commission issued a press release on its approval of an NRC action plan to assure timely cleanup of sites contaminated with radioactive

material. This step was taken because progress on actual cleanup of sites in the SDMP has been slow in many cases, even though the SDMP has been effective in ensuring coordination and resolution of some policy and regulatory issues associated with the cleanup of contaminated sites.

[We are currently satisfied with the progress that HERITAGE has made to date and with their cooperation with us and do not currently anticipate a need to apply specific measures of the action plan to accelerate or augment their decommissioning efforts.]

7. As responsible project managers for the Heritage site, my staff provides regulatory oversight of licensee activities through periodic inspections and reviews of licensee submittals. We also provide periodic updates to NRC HQ on the status of licensee activities to meet cleanup commitments.

Ms. Miller will now present specific information on the Heritage Minerals site in response to your concerns.

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