

Heritage Minerals, Inc.



CERTIFIED: P824 427 857

ROUTE 70 MILE MARKER 41
P.O. BOX 12, LAKEHURST, NJ 08733
908-657-9022 FAX 908-244-5626

March 31, 1992

Ms. Lauren Warner, Vice Chairperson
Manchester Township Environmental Commission
1 Colonial Drive
Lakehurst, NJ 08733

RE: Testing at the Heritage Minerals, Inc. Site

Dear Ms. Warner:

It is my pleasure to respond to your letter dated March 19, 1992, requesting updated data on water test results from the Heritage Minerals, Inc. site.

As a matter of clarification the data submitted with my January 27, 1992 letter was related to soil samples (not water samples as your recent letter inferred). This indicated that no contamination existed in the areas sampled.

I am attaching a copy of our most recent test of the water at Heritage taken on March 11, 1992 which we obtain, on a quarterly basis, from Henderson Laboratories. As you can see the water at Heritage is clean and well within safe and acceptable drinking water levels. I will now forward all future quarterly results to you directly.

In regard to your request for information on the radioactive minerals on the Heritage Minerals site, I offer you the following brief description of the Heritage Minerals operation and the resulting NRC license.

The total area of the Heritage tract covers about 7000 acres, approximately 1800 acres were disturbed by the previous operation (1973 to 1982). The Heritage operating boundary contained about 280 acres and about 1.2 million tons of stockpiled mineral sands (new feed), left by the previous operator (ASARCO, Inc.), were processed by Heritage. This was completed in August 1990 and the plant is now on a stand by basis.

The new feed was a mixture of naturally occurring minerals, 70% silica sand, 15% aluminum silicate minerals, zircon, titanium dioxide minerals and a trace amount of monazite. Monazite is a complex phosphate of rare earth elements containing about 3.5% thorium and uranium chemically bound with the rare earths and the only known source of radioactivity in the new feed.

Prior to start up in 1986, the operator (Mineral Recovery, Inc.), at that time, was advised by the NRC that no specific treatment was required for the crude monazite sand concentrated at certain flow sheet points. However, in 1989 Heritage Minerals was informed by the NRC that while no immediate threat existed, source material (0.05% or 500 ppm) occurred at these said points and consequently a license was required from the NRC to possess the crude monazite sand. This material was not chemically altered within the plant and is stable. Heritage Minerals applied for a NRC license for removal of the

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Ms. Lauren Warner

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monazite as part of the decommissioning of its operations.

Heritage has received USNRC License No. SMB-1541, expiring December 31, 1995, which permits it to possess, store, and transport the crude monazite sand to another licensee.

All safety precautions were taken to protect the workers within the operation areas by using eye protection and dust masks. Monitoring badges were worn by all workers within the area being decommissioned. Analytical results from the badges did not show any radiation exposure.

The plant buildings and equipment have been cleaned so that fixed surface contamination does not exceed 3,000 disintegrations per minute (dpm) over an area of 100 square centimeters (100 cm²). Removable contamination may not exceed 200dpm/100 cm². These levels are determined by laboratory analyses of wipe tests.

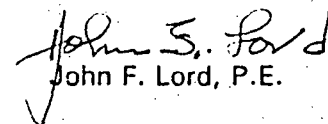
To meet the criteria for unrestricted use, the two mill buildings and the 1/4 acre crude monazite sand pile must be decontaminated as described in Option 1 of the Branch Technical Position, 46 Federal Register (October 31, 1981). This pile is the only area that can be classified by NRC standards as containing source material.

To date, both the wet and dry mills have been cleaned and will be checked and resurveyed by the NRC and the operator after the fenced and covered monazite sand pile, located south east of the dry mill building, is removed from the site.

In this respect Heritage has also secured a Foreign Export License, and is presently negotiating with foreign companies licensed to accept and process the crude monazite sand for its removal from the plant site.

I hope this addresses your concerns and I will continue to forward quarterly water sampling results.

Very truly yours,


John F. Lord, P.E.

JFL/fm

Enclosure (Quarterly Water Analyses)

cc: Mayor Cameron
R. Turner
J. Maschuci
J. Jados
K. Schlatmann

HM.006



Manchester Township

Environmental Commission

1 Colonial Drive

Lakehurst, New Jersey 08733

(201) 657-8121

March 19, 1992

Mr. John Lord
Manager/Vice President
Heritage Minerals
Route 70
Whiting, NJ 08759

Subject: Testing at Heritage Minerals Site

Dear Mr. Lord,

The Environmental Commission thanks you for your transmittal of water testing results of January 27, 1992. At the Commission's regular meeting on March 18, 1992, it was requested that you provide updated water testing results and results of radioactivity readings on the Heritage Mineral site.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Lauren Warner

Lauren Warner
Vice Chairperson
Environmental Commission

LW/mac

cc: R. Turner
J. Maschuci
J. Jados
EC / file