

MAR. 20 1989

Docket No. 99990001
File No. RI-88-A-0111

Non-license

MEMORANDUM FOR: Alan Shropshire, Compliance and Investigations Coordinator

THRU: Malcolm R. Knapp, Director
Division of Radiation Safety and Safeguards

James H. Joyner, Chief, Nuclear Materials Safety Branch

FROM: John D. Kinneman, Chief, Nuclear Material Safety Section B

SUBJECT: CLOSEOUT OF ALLEGATION NO. RI-88-A-0111 CONCERNING HERITAGE MINERALS, INC.

In an anonymous memorandum to Region I dated October 24, 1988, it was alleged that the Heritage Minerals plant in Lakehurst, New Jersey, processed minerals containing source material in quantities and using methods that posed a hazard to the plant workers.

On January 12, 1989, an inspection was conducted at the Heritage Minerals, Inc., location. The inspection findings are documented in the attached report. The inspectors took samples of the feed stock, in-process material, and waste streams at the plant. One of the process streams had a source material concentration of 0.07%, and one of the waste streams had a source material concentration of 0.58%. The inspectors also measured radiation levels throughout the plant. The maximum level measured was 0.3mR/hr in contact with one of the process streams. Throughout most of the plant, the radiation levels were of the order of 30 uR/hr.

The processed material is of a sandy consistency when dried, and is handled in multi-ton lots. It is generally moved with shovels or front-end-loaders, or piped as a slurry. Only in limited areas of the dry mill can material become airborne, and workers in these areas were observed to be wearing disposable dust masks.

We have concluded that while the allegor's facts are essentially correct, it is unlikely, considering the low concentration of radioactive material, that a radiation safety hazard exists to the health of the plant workers. It is apparent, however, that the concentrations of source material handled by the plant require an NRC license, and we will pursue appropriate enforcement action to assure that the company applies for a license.

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~~HERITAGE MINERALS ALLEGATION~~

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This matter is closed.

Original Signed By:
John D. Kinneman

John D. Kinneman, Chief
Nuclear Material Safety Section A
Division of Radiation Safety and
Safeguards

Attachment:
Region I Inspection Report No. 99990001/89-001

cc:
File No. RI-88-A-0111

bcc:
L. Friedman ✓
J. Kinneman

RI:DRSS
Friedman

3/16/89

RI:DRSS
Kinneman

3/16/89

RI:DRSS
Joyner

3/17/89

RI:DRSS
Knapp

3/21/89

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