UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

AR

April 22, 1992

The Honorable Frank R. Lautenberg
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-3002

Dear Senator Lautenberg:

This is in response to your April 7, 1992 letter requesting that Tim Martin, NRC Region I Administrator, meet with local officials in Manchester Township to provide them with information on the presence of radioactive materials at the Heritage Minerals site in Lakehurst, New Jersey. Enclosed is a copy of Mr. Martin's letter to Mayor Jane C. Cameron of Manchester Township that refers to the arrangements that we made on April 9, 1992 to meet with her and her Township Council at their next scheduled Township Meeting on April 22, 1992 at 7:00 p.m.

Unfortunately, Mr. Martin is not available to personally attend. However, due to the importance of this meeting, Mr. Richard Cooper, Director, Division of Radiation Safety and Safeguards, will attend the meeting on behalf of Mr. Martin. Mr. Cooper is responsible for managing the NRC Region I inspection and licensing program with respect to radiation protection. He and a member of his staff will meet with the Mayor and the Township Council to discuss the NRC Site Decommissioning Management Plan and the specific radiation protection concerns described in Mayor Cameron's letter to NRC Region I dated March 18, 1992.

I trust that we have been responsive to your request to address this matter expeditiously.

Sincerely,

James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosure:
Letter to Mayor Cameron dated April 17, 1992

D-2

April 22, 1992

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United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-3002

Dear Senator Lautenberg:

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Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
James M. Taylor

James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosure:
Letter to Mayor Cameron dated April 17, 1992

Distribution
Taylor
Sniezek
EDO R/F
CA
SECY
MMiller
RCooper
TMartin

*SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE

*DRSS		*DRSS		*DRSS	*DRSS
MILLER		KINNEMAN		BELLAMY	COOPER
s/4/15/92		s/4/15/92		s/4/15/92	s4/16/92
RA	EDO	CA			
MARTIN	JMTaylor				
s/4/17/92	4/2[illegible]/92	4/27/92			

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
475 ALLENDALE ROAD
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406-1415

APR 17 1992

The Honorable Jane C. Cameron
Mayor of the Township of Manchester
1 Colonial Drive
Lakehurst, New Jersey 08773

Dear Mayor Cameron:

In your March 18, 1992 letter to me, you expressed concern regarding the radioactive monazite sand which is stored on the Heritage Minerals, Inc., site in Manchester Township. You expressed concern that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has not taken any action to contain or remove this radioactive material, that adequate security is not being provided for the site, and that the NRC has not notified Township officials concerning these matters. You requested that a representative from this office meet with you and other members of Manchester Township Council to address these concerns.

For your information, the Heritage site was the subject of discussions held between officials of Manchester Township and the NRC staff in 1989. However, we appreciate your concerns and would be pleased to attend the next Township Meeting and discuss the status of the Heritage Minerals site with you and other Township officials. On April 9, 1992, you informed Dr. Ronald Bellamy of my staff that your next meeting is scheduled for April 22, 1992 at 7:00 p.m. Although Dr. Bellamy originally planned to personally meet with you at your next Township Meeting, I have decided to send his supervisor and Division Director, Mr. Richard Cooper, in his place. I apologize for not personally attending, but could not arrange my travel itinerary to return to New Jersey in time to participate. Ms. Marie Miller, our Project Manager for Heritage Minerals, will also attend the meeting.

As you are aware, a tour of the site for the afternoon of April 22, 1992, at 3:00 p.m., has been arranged with Heritage Minerals. In addition to Mr. Cooper and Ms. Miller, you and representatives of the State of New Jersey have also been invited. We do not believe current site conditions represent any threat to public health and safety.

We share your desire for an expeditious cleanup of the Heritage Minerals site and look forward to meeting you and responding to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Thomas T. Martin
Regional Administrator

APR 21 '92 08:03 NRC RI DRSS P02

APR 17 1992

Public Document Room (PDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
State of New Jersey

John F. Lord, P.E.
Heritage Minerals, Inc.
Route 70, Mile Mark 41
Post Office Box 12
Lakehurst, New Jersey 08733

Richard Sullivan, Chairman
Pinelands Commission
P. O. Box 7
New Lisbon, New Jersey 08064

Tom Thomas, Township Planner
T & M Associates
11 Tindall Road
Middletown, New Jersey

R. Stearn, Chief
Bureau of Environmental Radiation
NJ DEPE
CN-415
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

APR 21 '92 08:03 NRC RI DRSS P03

FRANK R. LAUTENBERG
NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
TRANSPORTATION, CHAIRMAN
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE AND JUDICIARY
DEFENSE
FOREIGN OPERATIONS
VA, HUD AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3002

COMMITTEES:
BUDGET
COMMITTEE:
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
SUPERFUND, OCEAN AND WATER PROTECTION, CHAIRMAN
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
WATER RESOURCES, TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

HELSINKI COMMISSION

April 7, 1992

Mr. Tim Martin
Administrator
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19406

Dear Mr. Martin:

Mayor Jane C. Cameron of Manchester Township, New Jersey, has forwarded to me a copy of the letter she sent to you on March 18 concerning the presence of radioactive materials at the Heritage Minerals site in her community. I would greatly appreciate it if you would meet with local officials in Manchester Township and provide them with information on this issue in an expedient manner.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Lautenberg

FRL/esl Enclosure

REPLY TO:

☐ 508 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3002
(202) 224-4744

☐ ONE GATEWAY CENTER SUITE 1011
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102-5311
(201) 645-3030

☐ BARRINGTON COMMONS
208 WHITE HORSE PIKE
SUITES 18-19
BARRINGTON, N.J. 08007-1922
(609) 757-5353

Manchester Township

1 Colonial Drive
Lakehurst, New Jersey 08733
(908) 657-8121

March 18, 1992

Tim Martin, Administrator
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
Philadelphia, PA 19406

RE: Radioactive Materials (Monazite)
Heritage Minerals, Inc. Site
Block 75.01, Lot 1 - Route 70
Manchester Township, Ocean County, NJ

Dear Mr. Martin:

On behalf of the Township of Manchester, I hereby request that immediate action be taken to contain and/or remove more than 695 cubic yards of radioactive monazite which is located on the Heritage Minerals, Inc. mining site in Manchester Township. We are concerned that this material is not fenced and that no warning signs have been placed on the storage piles of tailings which contain the monazite.

Recent inquiries with the New Jersey Department of Protection and Energy indicate that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has not taken any action and has not responded to inquiries concerning this radioactive material even though the Commission apparently assumed jurisdiction over the 4,000 acre site as a result of a license issued by the Commission in January, 1991. The monazite concentrate material occurred as a result of the processing of mining tailings in 1990.

Our concern about lack of action on the monazite material stems from recently received information that some of the material contains high enough radiation levels which would warrant the removal of the material to a Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility in Utah. We are concerned about the workers at the Heritage Minerals site and persons who are attracted to and frequent the site due to two large lakes (1/2 and 1 mile long) which exist as a result of the original ilmenite mining operation which occurred on the site from approximately 1973 to 1982. We are also concerned because the current owner of the site,

APR 21 '92 08:04 NRC RI DRSS P04

Heritage Minerals, Inc., has appeared before the Manchester Planning Board with a proposal to construct a golf course and eventually to construct a major residential development on the cleared portion of the mining site, a portion of which contains the monazite concentrate material.

We are also concerned that any proposed development activity must recognize the existence of the 40-50 acres of other mining tailings which are contaminated with radioactive materials.

As the Mayor of the Township, I am distressed with the fact that during the past year the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the owner of the property have not notified Manchester Township officials concerning the existence or extent of the contaminated radioactive material which is stored at the Heritage Minerals site. The NJDEPE did provide a synopsis of their findings on this situation to my staff in March, 1992. A copy of their Fact Sheet is attached. It is our understanding that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is responsible for the containment and cleanup of this site in accordance with the license which was issued in January, 1991.

Manchester Township Police, First Aid and Emergency Management officials have not been provided with any information concerning the health and safety hazards of the monazite material. We are concerned that the owner of the property has not provided adequate security to keep people away from the pile or piles of monazite concentrate material.

We request that you provide us with information concerning the actions which are being taken by the NRC to contain and/or to remove the radioactive monazite which presently exists on the Heritage Minerals site. We also request that you provide us with information concerning potential health hazards which may occur from contact with the material and full disclosure of the extent of the contamination which occurs on this site.

In order to fully understand the extent of the radioactive monazite material which exists on the Heritage Mineral site, we request that a representative from the Nuclear Regulatory

Commission schedule a meeting with me and representatives of Manchester Township at the earliest possible date to address the many concerns we have concerning the contaminated mining tailings and the apparent lack of action by the NRC on this matter to date.

Very truly yours,

TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER

Jane C. Cameron

JANE C. CAMERON
Mayor

JCC:mbt
Enclosure
cc: The Honorable H. James Saxton, M.R.
The Honorable William Bradley, Senator
The Honorable Frank R. Lautenberg, Senator
The Honorable James J. Florio, Governor
Scott Weiner, Commissioner, NJDEPE
Tom Thomas, P.P., A.I.C.P., Township Planner

FACT SHEET: HERITAGE MINERALS (HMI) SITE; LAKEHURST, NJ (OCEAN COUNTY) ROUTE 70, MILE MARKER 41

BACKGROUND:

1. Mining and physical separation mill for ilmenite. Originally started operations in the 1960's for titanium. Tailings piles from titanium processing were partially used as the source for the separation of zirconium and monazite in the 1980's. The resulting monazite was at Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensable concentrations ("source material").

2. From 1972 to March 1982, the site was owned by ASARCO and operated to recover ilmenite from sand naturally present at the site. The site was purchased by the Hovson Corporation in 1986 and leased to Mineral Recovery, Inc. (MRI). MRI operated the plant from November 1986 until August 1987. From August 1987 until they suspended processing in August 1990, the site was operated by Heritage Minerals Inc. (HMI), which is owned by Hovson.

3. HMI estimated that approximately 25,000 tons of wet mill tailings and 300 tons of dry mill tailings were produced each month during Mineral Recovery Inc. (MRI) and HMI Phase I operations. Twenty percent of the dry mill tailings was monazite. Using this information, a conservative estimate suggests that approximately 1,980 tons of radioactive monazite was combined with 825,000 tons of radioactively clean wet mill tailings and 7,920 tons of other dry mill tailings and stockpiled on the combined tailings pile during the processing of the ASARCO dry mill tailings. This combined tailings pile became the feed pile in HMI "Phase II" operations.

4. HMI Phase II operations occurred between April 1990 and August 1990. During this phase, the combined tailings pile from MRI and HMI Phase I operations was processed to extract leucoxine, rutile, and zircon. During the process, monazite was isolated in the dry mill and collected in the current monazite pile. At the termination of operations in August 1990, approximately 695 cubic yards of monazite had been collected in the monazite pile. An estimated 850,000 cubic yards of combined contaminated tailings remained.

5. Operation occupies approximately 250 acres on a 7,000 acre tract of land owned by Hovnanian Corporation. Approximately 1,000 acres east of Route 70 were mined for ilmenite, which includes the existing facilities and tailings piles.

SENT BY:T & M / TOWNPLAN 03-18-92 11:10AM 2016572071 # 2
APR 21 '92 08:05 NRC RI DRSS P07

6. Separation of ores at this facility is performed by gravimetric, electrical and magnetic processes. No chemical extraction used at plant.

CURRENT SITE STATUS

1. Facility has stopped zircon and monazite separation due to depression in the zirconium market in 1990. Minimum staff on-site.

2. Wet and dry mills currently being decontaminated.

3. NRC licensed the mills and the monazite pile in January 1991. However, the bulk of radioactive material is in the "recycle tailings area", otherwise known as the "combined tailings pile", from the titanium processing or the feed stock for the zirconium, which NRC has declined to license. The volume of this pile is approximately 800,000 cubic yards and is located over old settling ponds. An additional 50,000 to 100,000 cubic yards is located in adjacent areas referred to as "clean tailings" and the "old dry mill tailings area".

4. All of mined area and radioactive materials are located in a Coastal Area Facility Review Act (CAFRA) area (East of Route 70). Property west of Route 70 is in the Pinelands National Reserve.

5. Amount of land containing non-NRC licensed radioactive material totals approximately 90 acres. Zirconium feed stock occupies 50 acres and averages 15 feet deep. Bottom of radioactive material layer not accessible to construction equipment due to presence of water.

6. Facility has settling pond with NJPDES permit. Ground water on-site contaminated with diesel fuel from operation of furnace used in dry mill.

SENT BY:T & N / TOWNPLAN 03-18-92 11:11AM 2016572071 # 4

APR 21 '92 08:06 NRC RI DRSS P08

FACSIMILE REQUEST

Date 4/14/92

MESSAGE TO: Dewayne Morris
OEDO

TELECOPY NUMBER: 964-2162

NUMBER OF PAGES: 6 INCLUDING THIS REQUEST FORM

MESSAGE FROM: Joyce
U.S.N.R.C. REGION I KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNA.

TRANSMITTED BY:

DATE & TIME:

VERIFIED BY:
(964-1718)

DEWAYNE:

A LETTER TO THE MAYOR HAS BEEN DRAFTED (FOR BRANCH CHIEF SIGNATURE) AND READY TO BE REVIEWED BY TIM. THE BRANCH CHIEF SPOKE TO THE MAYOR AND A MEETING WILL BE HELD WITH HER AND TOWNSHIP REPRESENTATIVES ON APRIL 22.

JOYCE

REG I Form 124
Feb 77