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ENGELHARD INDUSTRIES, INC., ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS, LICENSE NOS. SNM-185 (DOCKET 70-139) AND SUB-172 - ALLEGED DEFICIENCIES IN WASTE DISPOSAL SYSTEM (OUR MEMO DATED 10/3/61)

CO:I:PBK

During the course of a regularly scheduled inspection of the licensee's facilities on April 25, 1962, a review of the subject matter was made.

Mr. Norton M. Weiss, Health & Safety Manager, reported that the Division of Sanitary Engineering, Commonwealth of Massachusetts had made several inspections of the waste disposal system since August 1961 and that they are satisfied with the disposal system. Weiss reported that he had installed a high water alarm as per recommendations from the State in August 1961. He reported that no overflow of the leaking pits occurred since that time and that the high water alarm has never been actuated.

Records of disposals to the leaking pit areas were reviewed. The records indicated that a total of 17,637 uc U was released to the pits during the period January 1 to December 31, 1961. The highest daily release was found to be 1.89×10^{-5} uc/l and the average, 0.6×10^{-5} uc/l. These waste disposal records were well documented in the H. P. files.

Weiss reported that on April 29, 1961 one of the pits was pumped out and a total of 14,000 gallons of liquid effluent containing 477.9 uc U was released into the north Attleboro sewerage

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treatment plant system. On August 14-15, a total of 17,000 gallons of liquid waste containing a total of 201.8 uc U was similarly discharged. No other similar discharges from the pits were made to date.

Both C. A. Canham, Plant Manager, and Norton Weiss reported that fuel production operations ceased at the facility on October 11, 1961 and, therefore, the amount of contaminated liquid wastes flowing into the hold up tanks have been greatly reduced. In addition, the plant personnel have been decreased from 200 to 11 personnel. Of the eleven plant personnel, only 5 persons require shower facilities and that their work clothing be laundered periodically. Therefore, the major problem of laundry detergents and lint causing blockage and eventual overflow of waste waters from the pits has been minimized. Canham stated that Engelhard does not contemplate any future work involving nuclear materials other than their present operation which involves the burning of U metal to UO_2. This is the operation that this five production workers are and will be involved in.

No further action will be taken by this office relative to the waste disposal system.

Transmitted herewith are clear inspection report forms, AEC-591, for License Nos. SNM-185 and SUB-172.

Enclosure:
2 cys - 591 Form
2 cys - DL&R