



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION I
475 ALLENDALE ROAD
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406-1415

NOV 5 1996

Roger Towe
Staff Environmental Engineer
Environmental Affairs
Tenneco, Incorporated
1010 Milam Street
P.O. Box 2511
Houston, TX 77252-2511

SUBJECT: INSPECTION NO. 040-01266/96-001

Dear Mr. Towe:

On October 11, 1996, Ronald Bellamy and Todd Jackson of this office conducted an inspection at the former Tenneco Polymers, Inc. facility at Fords, NJ of activities previously authorized by the NRC license listed below. The inspection was limited to a review of the current status of the site and preliminary preparations for site remediation. A copy of the NRC inspection report is enclosed. The results of the inspection were discussed with Mr. Dale Evans of your contractor, SECOR International, at the conclusion of the inspection.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter will be placed in the Public Document Room. No reply to this letter is required.

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ronald R. Bellamy".

Ronald R. Bellamy, Ph.D., Chief
Decommissioning and Lab Branch
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No. 040-01266
License No. SUB-466 (Retired)

Enclosure:
Inspection Report No. 040-01266/96-001

cc w/enclosure:
State of New Jersey
Dale Evans, SECOR International, Inc.

B/16

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OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

R. Towe
Tenneco, Incorporated

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I

INSPECTION REPORT

Report No. 040-01266/96-001

Docket No. 040-01266

License No. SUB-466 (Retired)

Licensee: Tenneco Chemicals, Incorporated
Meadow Road
Fords, New Jersey

Facility Name: Tenneco Polymers, Inc., Fords, New Jersey

Inspection At: Meadow Road
Fords, New Jersey

Inspection Conducted: October 11, 1996

Inspectors:

Todd J. Jackson
Todd J. Jackson, CHP
Health Physicist

November 5, 1996
date

Approved By:

Ronald R. Bellamy
Ronald R. Bellamy, Ph.D., Chief
Decommissioning and Lab Branch
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

November 5, 1996
date

Inspection Summary: Routine, announced visit to the formerly licensed site. The objective of the visit was to observe facility status and to discuss initial preparations for remediation of the uranium contamination at the site. Radiation exposure rate measurements were made at the site, confirming earlier measurements. Two soil samples were collected for analysis, with results obtained on November 4, 1996. (Inspection Report No. 040-01266/96-001)

Results: No new areas of exposure rates greater than background were identified at the site. The soil samples contained only naturally occurring radioactive materials at typical natural background concentrations. Preliminary remediation plans were discussed with the former licensee's contractor.

DETAILS

1. Persons Contacted

D. W. Evans, SECOR International, Incorporated

2. RADIATION SURVEYS

Background exposure rates at the site ranged from 5-10 microRoentgens/h. The inspectors toured the entire site and did not detect any previously unidentified areas where exposure rates exceeded background. The inspectors also confirmed the presence of exposure rates greater than background in the vicinity of building K-12, the foundation of building K-7, and the converter building near K-12. Detailed exposure rate survey results for these areas was contained in the previous NRC inspection of the site (NRC Inspection Report 040-01266/95-001).

3. SURVEY INSTRUMENTS

The survey instruments used by the inspectors were a Ludlum Model 19 microR meter (NRC Tag No. 033511) and a Ludlum model 2221 Ratemeter (NRC Tag no. 054829) coupled to a Ludlum Model 44-10 2x2 inch sodium iodide gamma detector. Instrument calibrations were valid through March 14, 1997.

4. SOIL SAMPLES

The inspectors collected surface soil samples from the former tank farm at the west side of the site and at the northwest corner of the capped sludge pond on the south side of the site. Results for both samples showed only naturally occurring materials at typical background environmental concentrations, with no material related to formerly licensed activities at the site.

5. REMEDIALATION WORK PLAN

The inspectors discussed briefly with the former licensee's contractor the draft "Work Plan for Radioactive Materials Screening and Remediation" submitted to the NRC. The contractor presented the inspectors with a letter containing responses to NRC comments and questions on the draft.