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COTTER CORPORATION

POST OFFICE BOX 1000
POSWELL, NEW MEXICO 88201

January 7, 1971

U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Region 3, Division of Compliance
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Re: Cotter Corporation
SUB-1022 (408035)

Attention: Mr. Boyce H. Grier

Dear Mr. Grier:

This letter is in reply to your correspondence of December 4, 1970 in which you stated that certain aspects of the drying and processing operations at Latty Avenue may be in noncompliance with AEC regulations. Accordingly, we are at the present time initiating a monitoring program which shall comply in all aspects to AEC regulations 10 CFR 20.201(b).

At the present time arrangements have been made to visit the site on December 28, 1970. It should be noted that monitoring programs of this type are dependent on successful operations of the drying process and equipment and that equipment failure or inclement weather may delay the initiation of this program until a later date. It is the full intention of this firm to obtain and analyze all the necessary samples and have them submitted to you in report form on or before January 15, 1971. If there are any further questions, please feel free to contact me immediately.

Very truly yours,

(2)
COTTER CORPORATION

By David P. Marcott
David P. Marcott
Executive Vice President

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ST. LOUIS AIRPORT RESIDUES

1. Location

Residues are located on a 22-acre tract near the ^(NE) corner of the St. Louis Municipal Airport.

The land was acquired in 1946 ^{for} 20,000.

It has been used for storage of contaminated residues from processing of concentrates by Mallinckrodt Chemical Works at the old Destrehan Street Plant which was the predecessor to Weldon Spring.

It is also used for storage of contaminated metal and other waste materials.

H. G.

2. Description

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| There are | 117,000 tons | of residues containing |
| almost | | 200 tons of uranium |
| Pitch blend raffinate | 74,000 tons | (113 tons U) |
| Colorado raffinate | 32,500 tons | (48 tons U) |
| Barium Sulfate Cake - Unleached | 1,500 tons | (22 tons U) |
| Barium Sulfate Cake - Leached | 8,700 tons | (7 tons U) |
| Miscellaneous material in Drums | 350 tons | (2 tons U) |

The pitch blend raffinate from the Belgian Congo concentrates are estimated to contain about 1.8 M lbs. of cobalt (888 Tons)

2.1 M lbs. of nickel (1,040 Tons)

1.1 M lbs. of copper (549 Tons)

plus small amounts of rare earths and other elements.

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3. Efforts to Sell

In 1962 bids were invited on the residues and an award was made to Contemporary Metals Corporation, Los Angeles.

However, Contemporary failed to furnish \$50,000 performance bond and pay the \$126,500 bid and was subsequently found in default of the contract.

Two invitations were issued in 1964, neither one of which produced a responsive bid.

4. Airport Committee

Recently the Commission approved removal of the residues to Weldon Spring and clean up of the Airport Site to make it available for unrestricted disposal. (AEC 194/51 - Proposed Extension of Feed Plant Contracts)

As a result a Committee was designated on August 18 to develop and, after approval, carry out a plan for doing three things:

- (a) Removing the residues to Weldon Spring;
- (b) Cleaning up the Site to make it available for unrestricted disposal; and
- (c) Disposing of the Site after removal of the residues and clean up.

Recently United Nuclear expressed an interest in acquiring the residues and wanted 90 days to verify the content of copper, cobalt, nickel and other materials, and to check out their process for removing them.

At the end of this 90-day period, which runs from September 13, we should know if it will be possible to negotiate a sale of the residues to United Nuclear.

Their proposal contemplated payment of about \$37,000.

If a sale of the residues is not possible it is estimated to cost about \$0.5 M to remove and store them at Weldon Spring.

Tentative thinking by the committee is that it could cost on the order of another \$400,000 to \$500,000 to clean up the site after removal of the residues for unrestricted disposal.

Money for residue removal and site clean up has not been budgeted by ORO and is not available here.

5. Current Status

The Committee has almost completed its survey and accumulation of data on which planning will be based.

With respect to site clean up, preliminary indications are that concrete structures, such as the pit and storage shed, can be decontaminated to permissible levels and will not require demolition and removal.

Also leaching of residues into the ground seems minimal.

The major problem would appear to be in 5 acres in the west end of the area.

This was originally low swampy ground, drained by a couple of ditches.

It was filled and graded and then the Colorado raffinate, some drummed material and contaminated waste of all kinds, were ^{placed} ~~buried~~ on this fill.

However there is buried somewhere in the fill about six carloads of metal scrap, an unknown quantity of drums, and a jeep. *Fill is up to about 15 ft deep.*

At the moment the Committee is not quite sure of the extent of removal required for the buried items.

Delayed, once the site is cleaned up, would be a removal of the material from the site.