

## UNITED STATES

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION I 631 PARK AVENUE

KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406

2 4 FEB 1981

Docket No. 30-5782

Mr. Cleveland C. Hummel 29 East Main Street Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania 17815

Dear Mr. Hummel:

This refers to your letter dated January 16, 1981 requesting that we advise you regarding the significance of the doses measured at Mr. Clyde Walton's property in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania.

The 3.3 millirem quarterly dose in addition to natural background, is well within NRC limits for unrestricted areas and is much less than the limits for population exposure established by the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP). The accepted limit for exposure to an individual in the general public is 500 millirem per year. The measured dose of 3.3 millirem in a quarter is only 2.6% of this limit. We consider this to be an insignificant addition to the natural background radiation.

You should also consider that the natural background varies as much as a factor of two (2). Usual numbers for the Eastern United States are in the range of 15-25 millirem per calendar quarter. Doses in the West, Denver for example, may be as high as 40 millirem per quarter.

In conclusion, the dose observed on Mr. Walton's property is within the variation observed from place to place from natural causes and is well within accepted national guidelines. If you have any additional questions we would be happy to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

John D. Kinneman, Chief

Materials Radiological Protection

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Section

cc:

Mr. Clyde Walton