



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
799 ROOSEVELT ROAD
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137

PDR

APR 26 1980

Department of Energy
Oak Ridge Operations
ATTN: J. Wing
P. O. Box E
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Gentlemen:

On March 25, 1980, Messrs. D. Wiedeman and M. Phillips of the NRC Region III office performed an environmental sampling program along Fields Brook, Ashtabula, Ohio. The environmental samples consisted of 11 soil-sediment samples, 5 water samples and a composite water sample taken during a five hour period at the RMI Company effluent outfall during processing of depleted uranium. The samples were split equally with Ohio-EPA, RMI Co. and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Representatives of the Ashtabula Pollution Abatement Committee were invited to participate in the sample collection and analysis; however, they declined the offer to perform an independent laboratory analysis.

The NRC will have the samples analyzed by three nationally recognized laboratories: (1) Radiological and Environmental Science Laboratory, Idaho Falls, Idaho; (2) Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois; and (3) United States Environmental Protection Agency, Eastern Radiation Laboratory, Montgomery, Alabama.

The following analyses will be performed on each environmental sample: (1) pH; (2) gamma-ray spectrometry; (3) alpha spectrometry; (4) gross beta; and (5) gross alpha. All three laboratories perform the gamma-ray spectral analysis in essentially the same manner using standard and scientifically accepted laboratory procedures. The three laboratories will use different radiochemical separation schemes for the determination of isotopic uranium concentrations by alpha spectrometry.

8005210412

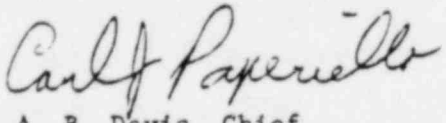
Deaprtment of Energy

- 2 -

APR 26 1980

To retain uniformity in analytical data, results of analyses will be reported in uCi/ml in water and pCi/g in soil.

Sincerely,

for 
A. B. Davis, Chief
Fuel Facility and Materials
Safety Branch

CC: Central Files
Reproduction Unit NRC 20b
PDR
NSIC