



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

PDR

APR 26 1980

64002334

RMI Company  
ATTN: M. R. Schaeffer  
P. O. Box 579  
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

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.

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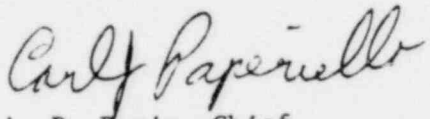
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To retain uniformity in analytical data, results of analyses will be reported in uCi/ml in water and pCi/g in soil.

Sincerely,

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

CC: Central Files  
Reproduction Unit NRC 20b  
PDR  
NSIC