



22 AUG 1980

Mr. John Kinneman
Chief of Material Radiological Protection Section
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Dear Mr. Kinneman:

Recently, all packaged radioactive waste collected over the past years from the overpackaging and rewarehousing of thorium nitrate at our Curtis Bay Maryland Depot was disposed of at the NRC approved Barnwell, South Carolina, site. Originally, the collected waste was placed in impermeable containers, transported to Building 921 where it was stored for subsequent disposal. Prior to that time, Building 921 had not been used to store any radioactive material.

Periodically, radiological checks were conducted on and near the packaged waste and the readings, expressed in mr/hr, were below 0.5. Even with the low readings, the building was placed under a restricted area designation. Prior to releasing the packages for shipment, wipe samples were taken. The results of the survey indicated that the packaged material (boxed and drummed) would be acceptable for shipment to the Barnwell facility.

After all the packaged waste had been removed a radiological survey was conducted in and around Building 921 by the zonal and depot radiological Safety Officers. Monitoring of the floor space of Building 921 showed readings of .02 to .04 mr/hr gamma + beta (background) with no alpha radiation detected. The instrumentation used to conduct the monitoring included a portable alpha counter, scintillation type, Eberline, Model PAC-ISA, serial number 374, and a geiger counter, Eberline, Model E-500B, serial number 945.

Based on the results of this survey and the manner in which the waste was stored (impermeable packaging), we request your concurrence that Building 921 be returned to an unrestricted use status.

WILLIAM R. CAMPBELL, JR.
Acting Assistant Commissioner
Office of Stockpile Management