



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

PDR

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US NRC
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SERVICES UNIT

JAN 6 1981

40-8724

Chemetron Corporation
ATTN: Mr. Raymond Fries
Vice President
Two Oliver Plaza
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Gentlemen:

This is in response to your December 22, 1980 letter to Mr. A. B. Davis of my staff (Enclosure 1) and to your oral request to obtain clarification of the following paragraph from the November 17, 1980 letter from Mr. Davis to you:

"The confirmatory measurements made by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) found the facility to meet the criteria for release of facilities for unrestricted use with one exception. This exception was due to the failure of the surveys for beta contamination to be less than the maximum limit of 15,000 cpm beta-gamma per 100 cm²."

The above comment was made concerning radiation survey results obtained by NRC-Region III for Rooms C, D, E and F of the McGean Facility, Building 21.

Although this beta contamination does not quite meet current guidelines for decontamination, NRC Region III believes there is no significant health hazard from this beta contamination in excess of 15,000 cpm beta/100 cm², based on the following considerations:

1. The licensee expended considerable effort to decontaminate the facility and succeeded in rendering the contamination "non-removable."
2. The contaminant is limited to depleted uranium and in the concentrations measured does not constitute a direct radiation problem.
3. Absorbed dose rates were less than 0.2 mrad/hr average and less than 1 mrad/hr maximum.
4. The locations of non-removable contamination are relatively inaccessible and no airborne problem from this contamination is anticipated.

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The Material Licensing Branch of NRC's Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards accepted this Region III assessment and issued Amendment 03 to your license releasing the above referenced rooms for unrestricted use. This was reaffirmed in their letter of October 14, 1980 from P. Guinn to you (Enclosure 2).

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this subject.

Sincerely,


James G. Keppler
Director

Enclosures:

1. Letter, R. S. Fries to
A. B. Davis, dated
12/22/80
2. Letter, P. K. Guinn to
R. S. Fries, dated
10/14/80

cc w/encl:

Robert J. Zellner, Vice
President & Counsel,
McGean Chemical Co., Inc.
1250 Terminal Tower
Cleveland, OH 44113

Central Files

December 22, 1980

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory
Commission
Region III
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Attention: A. B. Davis, Chief
Fueling Facility & Materials Safety Branch

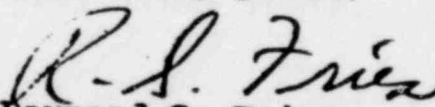
Dear Mr. Davis:

We have been informed by McGean Chemical Company, Inc. that a prospective tenant has approached McGean regarding the leasing of at least a portion of Areas C, D, E and F of Building 21 of McGean's 2910 Harvard Avenue, Newburgh Heights, Ohio facility.

On December 3, 1980, I sent a letter to you requesting that a confirmation be made that no health hazard exists in Areas 21 C, D, E and F of Building 21 of the McGean facility and that NRC headquarters has released these areas for unrestricted use.

It would be much appreciated if you would advise us of the NRC's position on this matter so that McGean will know if it is allowed to enter into such a lease agreement.

Very truly yours,


Raymond S. Fries

RSF:pg

cc: Robert J. Zellner

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