



Department of Human Resources
HEALTH DIVISION

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AUG 15 1980

August 15, 1980

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Attention: G. Wayne Kerr, Acting Director
Office of State Programs

Gentlemen:

This is in response to your letter of August 7, 1980 in which you have made inquiry as to the States' knowledge of old USAEC licensed facilities or locations at which the possession and use of source material occurred. Two of those listed licensed operations were shown to have been in Oregon and identified as follows:

No. 11 Docket No. 40-1206
NRC License No. R-191
Licensee: Oregon Metallurgical Corp.
Address: Albany, Oregon
Place of Use: Albany, Oregon

No. 36 Docket No. 40-943
NRC License No. SMB-135
Licensee: Wah Chang Corp.
Address: New York, New York
Place of Use: Albany, Oregon

The questions that you pose of us are answered as follows:

1. Neither of the above-identified firms were issued Oregon licenses to conduct continued operations as AEC authorized above.
2. Reference No. 11
 - a. A limited radiological survey was performed of the Oregon Metallurgical Corp. facility at Albany in 1978 for the purpose of determining the presence of naturally-occurring radioactive material in the waste product generated from the Titanium chlorination extraction process from rutile ore. That extraction process was conducted in 1970-71. The only radioactive material identified was ore residue from the temporary storage of zircon sand at the old unused extraction plant. All chlorinator residue waste was removed to a landfill site at Alkali Lake, Oregon, and trench-buried.

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- b. It is not known if that portion of the existing Oregon Metallurgical Corp. plant and equipment associated with the early day source material usage still exists.
- c. The present facility is involved in the production of Titanium metal and metal products from Titanium tetrachloride. The firm is currently investigating the feasibility of returning to Ti extraction from the parent ore, rutile or ilmenite.

Reference No. 36

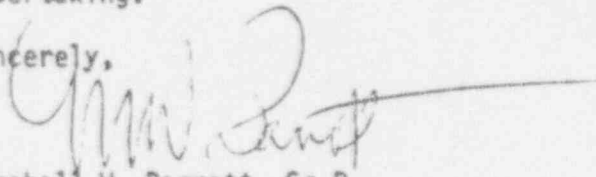
- a. Extensive investigation of the Wah Chang Corp., now Teledyne Wah Chang Albany Corp., facilities located at Albany, Oregon, has been made. The investigation first began in early 1978 and centered around the use and disposal practices of the NORM radioactive waste generated from the Zirconium and Hafnium extraction process from zircon sand. That investigation eventually led to the licensing of the Teledyne Wah Chang Albany firm for the possession and use of NORM containing zircon sand.
- b. It is not known if that portion of the existing TWCA plant and equipment associated with early day source material usage still exists.

Oregon received through transfer several AEC licenses issued to Wah Chang Corp., Albany, Oregon, upon the institution of its Agreement State status. One of those licenses (Docket No. 40-6398, License No. STB-595) authorized the possession of 5000 pounds of Thorium at the Albany Ta/Co Building. That licensed material was later covered under Oregon license as 3000 pounds of Thorium oxide as contaminated furnace refractory to be used for storage purposes only. It is believed that TWCA still holds that waste in storage and as such is the only remaining radioactive material from that earlier AEC licensed project.

- c. The present facility is involved in the production of Zirconium and Hafnium metal and metal products from zircon sand. The TWCA facility operations have been curtailed in part on August 13, 1980 due to reduced product market demands.

It is hoped that the above sketchy information will be of some help to you. We would be pleased to give you further assistance in your investigative undertaking.

Sincerely,


Marshall W. Parrott, Sc.D.
Manager
Radiation Control Section

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