

AUG 6 1982

Docket No. 40-501

License No. C-5023

Gruber Supply Corporation
ATTN: Mr. Carl Gruber
President
1880 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14207

Gentlemen:

Subject: Inspection No. 40-501/82-01

This refers to the closeout safety inspection conducted by Ms. J. Johansen of this office accompanied by Mr. R. Kelly, of the State of New York on June 29, 1982 on your property at 1880 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, New York of activities formerly authorized by AEC License No. C-5023 issued to the Aluminum Company of America and to the discussions of our findings held by Mr. Johansen with yourself at the conclusion of the inspection. This closeout inspection was conducted as part of an NRC effort to ensure that facilities where licensed activities were formerly conducted meet current criteria for release for unrestricted use and to confirm a closeout survey conducted by the State of New York in 1958.

Areas examined during this inspection are described in the USNRC Region I Report which is enclosed with this letter. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of discussions with various persons, measurements made by the inspector, and observations by the inspector.

Based on the results of this inspection, we concluded that your facility at 1880 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, New York meets the NRC's current criteria for release for unrestricted use, and that the radiation levels detected there are indicative of the natural background of the area.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790(a), a copy of this letter and the enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room unless you notify this office, by telephone, within ten days of the date of this letter and submit written application to withhold information contained therein within thirty days of the date of this letter. Such application must be consistent with the requirements of 2.790(b)(1). The telephone notification of your intent to request withholding, or any request for an extension of the 10 day period which you believe necessary, should be made to the Supervisor, Files, Mail and Records, USNRC Region I, at (215) 337-5223.

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No reply to this letter is required. Your cooperation with us in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

for James H. Payne
Thomas T. Martin, Director
Division of Engineering and Technical
Programs

Enclosure: NRC Region I Report Number 40-501/82-01

cc w/encl:
Public Document Room (PDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
State of New York

bcc w/encl:
Region I Docket Room (w/concurrences)
Chief, Operational Support Section (w/o encls)

J. Kinneman
RI:DETP
Johansen:as
7/22/82

J. Kinneman
RI:DETP
Kinneman
7/28/82

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION I

Report No. 40-501/82-01

Docket No. 40-501

License No. C-5023 Priority _____ Category _____

Licensee: Aluminum Company of America, Buffalo Works

1880 Elmwood Avenue

Buffalo, New York

Facility Name: Gruber Supply Corp./Commercial Pipe and Supply

Inspection at: 1880 Elmwood Avenue/1920 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, New York

Inspection conducted: June 29, 1982

Inspector: Jenny M. Johansen
Jenny M. Johansen, Radiation Specialist
USNRC

July 22, 1982
date signed

Robert F. Kelley, Senior Radiophysicist
State of New York

date signed

Approved by: John D. Kinneman
John D. Kinneman, Chief, Materials Section
No. 1

7/28/82
date signed

Inspection Summary:

Inspection conducted on June 29, 1982 (Report 40-501/82-01)

Areas Inspected: Special announced closeout inspection of a formerly licensed site engaged in production of magnesium thorium casting alloys, including interviews with current site owners and independent measurements of radiation levels. The Region I inspector was accompanied by a representative of the State of New York.

Results: All thorium had been removed from the site when the licensee vacated the site on June 24, 1958. No radiation levels above background were identified in areas surveyed. The site meets current criteria for release for unrestricted use.

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DETAILS

1. Individuals Contacted

- A. Carl Gruber, President
Gruber Supply Corporation
1880 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14207

- B. John Hurley, President
Commercial Pipe and Supply
1920 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14207

2. Background

Aluminum Corporation of America (ALCOA) was licensed for the experimental use and production of magnesium thorium alloys under AEC License No. C-5023 which named ALCOA's Buffalo, New York and Cleveland, Ohio Works as authorized places of use. This license expired February 28, 1961 (see Enclosure A). Information supplied to NRC's Office of State Programs by the State of New York dated September 11, 1980 indicated that ALCOA registered 30 mCi of natural thorium (approximately 594 pounds) pursuant to NYS Industrial Code 38, effective December 15, 1955; however all materials were returned to the A.E.C. prior to June 24, 1958 (See Enclosure B).

New York State performed a close-out survey of the ALCOA Buffalo Works at 1880 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, New York, on June 26, 1958 and found no evidence of any radioactivity in any part of the plant. The report also indicates ALCOA vacated the site on June 24, 1958. (See Enclosure B).

3. Inspector's Observations and Interviews with Current Occupants of the Formerly Licensed Site

The site formerly occupied by ALCOA Buffalo works at 1880 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, New York, has been owned and occupied by Gruber Supply Corporation since March 1, 1973. The facility consists of a two story office/store building (approximately 7,000 ft²) connected by a loading dock/skylight storage area (approximately 9,000 ft²) to a large warehouse (approximately 67,500 ft²). The construction of the facility is brick on concrete slab. The warehouse area is in part subdivided into smaller storage rooms. (See Enclosure C) the warehouse area is used for storage of plumbing and bathroom fixtures.

The inspectors met with individual A and discussed the scope and purpose of their visit. Individual A provided the inspectors with a site diagram and granted permission for a survey of the site. He suggested the inspectors contact individual B since the ALCOA foundry site had also included the warehouse building at 1920 Elmwood Avenue which shares a common wall and is directly adjacent to 1880 Elmwood Avenue. (See Enclosure C).

The inspectors contacted individual B, discussed the background, purpose and scope of the inspection. Individual B granted permission for a survey of his warehouse.

The warehouse building (approximately 22,500 ft²) at 1920 Elmwood Avenue shares an approximately 75 foot length along its southern walls in common with 1880 Elmwood. The building walls are brick and the floor is cement slab in some areas. This warehouse building is currently being used for storage of various size pipe.

4. Independent Measurements

The inspectors were accompanied during their surveys by individual A at 1880 Elmwood Avenue and individual B at 1920 Elmwood Avenue. Radiation levels were measured at knee level using a Ludlum Model 12S MicroR meter calibrated April 19, 1982.

1880 Elmwood Avenue: Radiation levels ranged from 4 to 8 microroentgens per hour in the offices, hallways and store areas, from 6 - 10 micro-roentgens per hour in the loading dock skylight, storage rooms and total warehouse area. Radiation levels increased up to 16 microroentgens per hour when the survey meter was placed directly on the brick walls. Radiation levels ranged from 6 - 10 microroentgens per hour in the outside environs 5 to 20 feet from the walls of the buildings on the site.

1920 Elmwood Avenue: Radiation levels ranged from 6 - 10 microroentgens per hour within the warehouse building with an increase up to 16 micro-roentgens per hour when the survey meter was placed directly on the brick walls. Radiation levels in the outside environs 5 to 20 feet from the walls of the warehouse ranged from 6 - 10 microroentgens per hour.

5. Exit Interviews

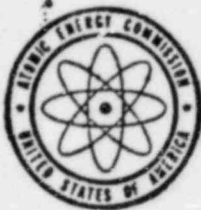
The inspectors reviewed the scope and results of their findings separately with individuals A and B.

6. Conclusion

Radiation levels measured at 1880 and 1920 Elmwood Avenue are indicative of the natural background of the site.

The site meets current NRC criteria for release for unrestricted use.

Enclosure A
Region I Report 40-501/82-01



UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

40-501
LFL:ND

SOURCE MATERIAL LICENSE

License No. C-5023

Dated: FEB 11 1960

Aluminum Company of America
1145 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles 17, California

Attention: Mr. R. H. Zanes

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and Section 40.21 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 10 - Atomic Energy, Chapter 1, Part 40 - Control of Source Material, you are hereby licensed to receive possession of and title to sixteen hundred (1,600) pounds of source material for experimental use and for the production of magnesium thorium casting alloys, in accordance with the procedures described in your application of February 28, 1958 and your letter of March 24, 1958. This license extends to your Buffalo, N.Y. Works and Cleveland, Ohio, Works. You are further licensed to transfer and deliver possession of and title to refined source material to any person licensed by the Atomic Energy Commission, within the limits of his license.

As a condition of this license, you are required to maintain records of your inventories, receipts and transfers of refined source material.

This license is subject to all the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 now or hereafter in effect and to all valid rules and regulations of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, including 10 CFR 20, "Standards For Protection Against Radiation."

Neither this license nor any right under this license shall be assigned or otherwise transferred in violation of the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954.

This license shall expire February 23, 1961. NRC management visit in June 61

FOR THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

J. C. Delaney
Chief, Nuclear Materials Section
Licensing Branch
Division of Licensing & Regulation

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Enclosure B

E-123-58 2 Regim I Report 40-50182-01

To: Dr. Morris Kleinfeld, Director Office Industrial Hygiene Buffalo

From: Dr. Albert J. Rosso Assoc. Industrial Hygiene Physician Date July 10, 1958

Subject: Aluminum Company of America - Reg. #0142
1880 Elmwood Ave.
Buffalo, N. Y.

Date of visit: June 26, 1958

Visited by: C. F. Candee, Radiophysicist

Person interviewed: Jos. Sciascia, Maintenance Foreman

Reason for visit: On request of the company to check the buildings for possible contamination.

REPORT

This company vacated the premises on June 24, 1958. Thorium alloys had been used in the manufacture of aluminum castings. All residual radioactive materials have been returned to the A.E.C. The 140 K.V.P. G. E. X-ray unit still remains in the plant subject to sale.

CONCLUSION

There is no evidence of radioactivity in any part of the plant.

RECOMMENDATION

None.

Cornelius F. Candee
Cornelius F. Candee
Radiophysicist

Albert J. Rosso
Albert J. Rosso, M.D.
Assoc. Industrial Hygiene Physician

R:L
CFC

