

A-145

DEC 2 4 1981

W. R. Grace & Co.
Davison Chemical Division
ATTN: Mr. John Hardwicke
General Counsel
Charles and Baltimore Streets
Baltimore, Maryland 21203

Dear Mr. Hardwicke:

This is in response to your telephone request for background information related to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) desire to perform a radiological survey of the W. R. Grace property in Pompton Plains, New Jersey. In 1974, the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) undertook to identify former government-owned or AEC contractor sites which were possibly contaminated with radioactivity as a result of research and development activities performed in the early days of the atomic energy program. Although these sites were supposed to have been decontaminated prior to release from government control, a number of sites were identified that had residual contamination and needed a comprehensive radiological survey to determine whether or not they met applicable criteria for release for unrestricted use. Because of the problems identified by those surveys, the NRC decided to review the files of all former Parts 30, 40, and 70 licenses to assure that adequate documentation existed to show that the sites were properly decontaminated prior to termination of the license.

The status of your site at Pompton Plains was questioned because of burial problems that were identified when the license was terminated. Also, an EG&G overflight conducted May 24, 1981 identified radiation levels on and adjacent to your property that are above current guidelines for release of properties for unrestricted use. The EG&G information was verified by ground level surveys conducted by NRC's Region I office. Accordingly, it was determined that a comprehensive survey of your property, as well as the adjacent property, was needed to further evaluate the contamination to determine what, if any, remedial action need be taken. We have contracted with Oak Ridge Associated Universities to conduct the survey of your property. The date for the preliminary site visit has not been decided but will be determined in the near future. You will be notified immediately when a firm date has been established.

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Again, thank you for your cooperation in this matter and if you have any questions, please contact Mr. Crow or me at (301) 427-4100 or 427-4309, respectively.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
Ralph G. Page /

R. G. Page, Chief
Uranium Fuel Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle and
Material Safety

OFFICE	FCUP <i>wrc</i>	FCUF <i>LT</i>	FCUF <i>RB</i>				
NAME	WTCrow:rad	LTyson	RBPage				
DATE	12/21/81	12/23/81	12/24/81				