



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

JUN 14 1994

FDocket No. 40-8820  
License No. SMB-1418

Mr. Henry L. Longest, II, Director  
Office of Emergency and Remediation Response  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Longest:

This letter is to inform the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is preparing to terminate the license issued to AMAX, Inc., for its site near Parkersburg, West Virginia and to transfer the site to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) under authority of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA), Section 151(c). NRC staff is providing this information to EPA in accordance with NRC policy published in its "Action Plan to Ensure Timely Cleanup of Site Decommissioning Management Plan Sites" (57 FR 13389), which states that NRC will inform EPA about specific decommissioning actions at Site Decommissioning Management Plan (SDMP) sites.

The AMAX site, originally owned by Carborundum Company, was mainly used to provide high-quality zirconium metal for the U.S. Navy's nuclear program. The plant started up in 1957 and was licensed under the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission because a particular zirconium ore (from Nigeria) contained a high enough concentration of thorium to be classified as source material.

After a period of joint ownership with Carborundum, AMAX became the sole owners in 1967, and the accumulated processing residues and left-over ore were sent to the low-level waste disposal site in Maxey Flats, Kentucky. In 1971, the original license was terminated. In 1973, AMAX sold the property to a pipe manufacturer, who began a new factory. During construction and related digging, workmen encountered pyrophoric materials and, on two occasions, the disturbed materials exploded or burned. Although no one was injured, AMAX promptly repurchased the property, an NRC license was reinstated, and AMAX undertook remediation of the site. The NRC staff wrote an Environmental Impact Appraisal of the proposed activities and published a negative declaration in the Federal Register in May 1982. In November 1982, the disposal cell was completed.

Under the NWPA, DOE is to take title and custody of contaminated sites where, "... low-level radioactive waste involved is the result of a licensed activity to recover zirconium, hafnium, and rare earths from source material." The NWPA specified three conditions to be met before DOE would be required to take title and custody: first, the site's owner must request that DOE do so; second, the site must be "...decontaminated and stabilized in accordance with the requirements established by the Commission;" and the third condition is that the NRC must approve the financial arrangement that the site owner has instituted for long-term maintenance and monitoring of the site. Accordingly, title has been transferred to DOE and these three conditions have been met.

140050

9407140232 940614  
PDR ADOCK 04008820  
C PDR

2/17/0  
Delete:  
ACAW

**NRC FILE CENTER COPY**

Mr. Henry L. Longest

- 2 -

In addition, the transfer of the title and custody was completed, the NRC license held by AMAX was terminated, and the site will be removed from the SDMP list.

If you have any questions or comments on this matter, please contact Mr. Bykoski, the NRC project manager, at (301) 504-2572.

Sincerely,

Original signed by  
Guy A. Arlotto



Robert M. Bernero, Director  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

DISTRIBUTION: Central File DWM r/f MKnapp JGreeves MBell MWeber  
LBell JSurmeier JHolonich MFederline NMSS r/f

\* SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE

OFC	LLDP*	LLDP*	OGC*	LLDP*	C	DWM	NMSS	NMSS
NAME	LBYKOSKI/cv	TCJOHNSON	R FONNER	JAUSTIN		<i>[initials]</i>	GARLOTTO	RBERNERO
DATE	5/25/94	5/26/94	5/27/94	6/08/94		6/13/94	6/14/94	6/14/94

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY -

S:\LDP\AMAXLONG.LMB

PDR: Yes  NO  
ACNW: Yes  NO   
lg : Yes  NO

Category: Proprietary  or *CP*   
Delete file after distribution: *6/13/94* Yes  NO

Mr. Henry L. Longest

- 2 -

NRC license held by AMAX is being terminated, and the site will be removed from the SDMP list.

If you have any questions or comments on this matter, please contact Mr. Bykoski, the NRC project manager, at (301) 415-6754.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Bernero, Director  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

OFC	LLDP*	LLDP	OGC	LLDP	C	DWM	NMSS	NMSS
NAME	LBYKOSKI/cv	TCJOHNSON	RFONNER	JJUSTIN			GARLOTTO	RBERNERO
DATE	5/25/94	5/26/94	5/01/94	5/ /94		5/ /94	5/ /94	5/ /94

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

A:\AMAXLONG.LMB

Mr. Henry L. Longest

- 2 -

was completed, the NRC license held by AMAX was terminated, and the site will be removed from the SDMP list.

If you have any questions or comments on this matter, please contact Mr. Bykoski, the NRC project manager, at (301) 415-6754.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Bernero, Director  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

OFC	LLDP*	LLDP	<i>LLDP</i>	LLDP	DWM	NMSS	NMSS
NAME	LBYKOSKI/cv	TC JOHNSON	<i>TC JOHNSON</i>	JAUSTIN		GARLOTTO	RBERNERO
DATE	5/25/94	5/26/94	5/27/94	5/ /94	5/ /94	5/ /94	5/ /94

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

A:\AMAXLONG.LMB

Mr. Henry L. Longest

- 2 -

conditions have been met. In addition, the transfer of the title and custody was completed, the NRC license held by AMAX was terminated, and the site will be removed from the SDMP list.

If you have any questions or comments on this matter, please contact Mr. Bykoski, the NRC project manager, at (301) 504-2572.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Bernero, Director  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

OFC	LLDP		LLDP		OGC		LLDP		DWM		NMSS		NMSS	
NAME	BYKOSKI/cv		TCJOHNSON		RFOUNNER		JAUSTIN				GARLOTTO		RBERNERO	
DATE	5/25/94		5/ /94		5/ /94		5/ /94		5/ /94		5/ /94		5/ /94	

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

A:\AMAXLONG.LMB