

48-8778

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UNOCAL 

July 15, 1992

To: Chad Glenn
From: Barbara Dankmyer

We have copied all the newsclippings we have from the NRC
press release. Articles concerning both York and Washington
are enclosed.

*Regards,
Barbara*

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Molycorp: contaminant poses little threat to area

By Mario Muffig
Business Editor

A Unocal Corp. spokesman said he has no idea why the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission this week released a list of sites that have low-level radiation contamination.

One of the 46 sites on the list is Molycorp plant in Canton Township.

Art Bentley, spokesman for Los Angeles-based Unocal, Molycorp's parent firm, said the contaminant at the Canton Township plant property is thorium.

"It was part of a rare material — a Colombian ore — which had been supplied from Brazil to make an alloy called ferro-Colombia that is used in the steel industry," Bentley said.

He said the thorium did not become part of the alloy but was entrapped in slag, "and the slag has been used over the years as fill for some parts of the property. Most of it, as I understand it, is in a specific site on top of a clay liner, and then the slag itself is covered with dirt."

Bentley said the thorium cannot leach out of the slag. "The slag is a sort of a glass-like material, and the thorium is trapped in the slag," emitting a "very, very low-level radiation."

The plant stopped producing ferro-Colombia in the 1960s, and "we had a partial cleanup of the site in the late '70s or early '80s," Bentley said.

"We've known that thorium has been present, but we are operating under NRC license, which is renewed every five years."

As part of the licensing procedure and

Please see MOLYCORP, A2

Keating was "deeply troubled by bondholders' losses, Neal said.

Neal read excerpts from a private probation report including stories of Keating's considerable gifts to common people. It included letters from such notables as Mother Teresa, to whom Keating's companies gave \$1 million.

Molycorp

Continued from Page A1

provisions, he said, Molycorp maintains a decommissioning plan, "which simply means that whenever we are no longer in business at that site, we must clean it up before the site can be used for anything else. But as long as we remain in business, we're under no mandate to clean it up, and I should add no one's been after us to clean it up."

Asked why the NRC released the information about the local plant, Bentley replied, "You're going to have to ask the NRC that. We don't know. I have no idea."

An NRC employee in Washington, D.C., said Friday the plant was identified "because it is one of the sites that at some point in time will have to be decontaminated before it can be released for unrestricted use." He acknowledged Molycorp is not acting improperly in delaying the decontamination procedure as long as the plant is in business.

Although Molycorp laid off most of the plant's 75 employees in December, "it's still open and running; there's no doubt about that," Bentley said.

"We have shut down the roaster (used to refine molybdenum), but we're still producing some experimental alloys for the lanthanide industry and producing some small quantities of lanthanide metals from ore that we get from our Mountain Pass mine out here in the Mojave Desert in California. We intend to remain active."

Bentley said there are about 15 employees at the plant.

Asked if there is any chance that the size of the work force might grow, Bentley said, "I don't want to speculate on that."

Corrections

C. Helen Mooshian will speak at Allegheny Wesleyan Church at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday and at 7 p.m. Monday. Friday's paper incorrectly announced she would also speak at the church Wednesday.

Quicker work demanded

State, firms say they're cleaning up radioactive sites

HARRISBURG (AP) — The state and companies that own radiation-contaminated property in Pennsylvania say they have been cleaning up the sites for years despite a federal agency's demand for speedier action.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission on Wednesday released the names of 46 sites nationwide that have low-level radiation contamination. Pennsylvania led the list with 13 sites.

The NRC said none posed an immediate health risk.

One of the sites is in the state-owned Quehanna wild area in Clearfield County, part of the Moshannon State Forest.

"We've been tracking the problem for years," said Mary Ellen Bolish, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Environmental Resources.

"These types of lists are sometimes a kick to get moving. We're getting kicked while we're already in flight," she said.

The state bought the site in the 1960s from a wood products company called Permagrain, which used radioactive material, according to the NRC.

The state is researching how to best deal with the cleanup, Bolish said.

The NRC demanded speedier cleanup of the sites, and complained

that in some cases efforts had lagged for years. Owners of the facilities could face fines or license restrictions if they fail to comply.

"Over the long term, if you leave them uncleared you'll have an environmental hazard. To what extent I don't know," said John Kopeck, an NRC spokesman in Washington, D.C.

Other contaminated sites in Pennsylvania range from glass and metals companies to a company that helps build and service nuclear power plants, Babcock & Wilcox.

Two sites owned by the New Orleans-based Babcock & Wilcox — in Apollo and Parks Township, Armstrong County, about 30 miles from Pittsburgh — have low levels of uranium and plutonium contamination in soil, the NRC said. Only the Apollo site is still active.

"We are proceeding with all the haste to clean up the sites," said Joseph Cepicka, manager of administration for the company's nuclear environmental services division.

He said the company had been working on the cleanup since 1980, and that it had spent nearly \$30 million. He said a proposal for further cleanup was awaiting NRC approval.

The NRC said it selected the 46 sites from about 36,000 that the agency had surveyed. Fewer than 75 eventually will require the kind of

decontamination plan that the NRC called for Wednesday.

The Boston-based Cabot Corp., involved in energy, plastics and carbon-blacks technology, owns three Pennsylvania sites on the list, in Boyertown and Reading, Berks County, and Revere, Bucks County.

"I think it's important to understand what the NRC means by contamination," said Anthony Campitelli, Cabot's manager of environmental affairs. "They aren't saying it poses a threat to the environment."

Sludge at the sites contains low levels of uranium and plutonium.

Campitelli said the company had submitted to the NRC plans for clean-up, and that it was waiting a response. He said the NRC could have put the company on the list because of a "time lapse in paperwork."

Moly Corp. Inc.'s mineral processing plant, near York, was put on the list because of low levels of contaminants in the soil, the NRC said.

A spokesman for its parent company, Los Angeles-based Unocal Corp., said he had not received notice from the NRC to clean up the site.

"We are required to clean up the site once we discontinue operations there, but not until then," spokesman Art Bentley told the Patriot News newspapers of Harrisburg.

Physician guilty of tax, Social Security fraud

By Mike Bucsko
Post-Gazette Staff Writer

A Westmoreland County doctor pleaded guilty yesterday to federal charges that he used false Social Security numbers to open investment accounts and that he filed false income tax returns.

Fred C. Edge, 38, of Arbor Hill Road, Hempfield, admitted that he used false names and Social Security numbers in several financial transactions, and that he illegally wrote off personal expenses as business expenses on tax returns. Senior U.S. District Judge Barron P. McCune said he would set a sentencing date after he received a report on Edge from federal probation officials.

Included among the \$67,407 in personal expenses that Edge deducted

weekly purchases of postal money orders, Dillon said. Between January and November 1988, Edge bought 905 money orders worth \$633,000 at 27 post offices, Dillon said.

The money orders were in amounts less than \$10,000, the threshold at which transactions must be reported to the Internal Revenue Service.

The federal government filed a civil lawsuit against Edge in January 1989 to try to recover some of the funds used to buy the money orders. He forfeited \$397,910 in January from three brokerage accounts to settle the case.

The money orders were used to open accounts with the brokerage firms of Dean Witter, Dillon

2nd trial: Man guilty of murder

Cordell Dobson's first jury trial ended in a mistrial after a juror clipped a seven-sentence newspaper story about the case and circulated it around the jury room.

His second jury trial ended yesterday with his conviction on second-degree murder and robbery charges in the beating death of his 85-year-old neighbor.

Dobson, 31, of Lafferty Street, Beltzhoover, faces a mandatory sentence of life in

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Observe Reports
4/10/92

Molycorp among 46 named to NRC list

Pa. has most sites
on contamination list

From staff and wire reports

HARRISBURG — The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission named Molycorp Inc. in Washington as one of 46 sites nationwide to have low-level radiation contamination.

Pennsylvania led the list, released Wednesday, with 13 sites. The NRC said none poses an immediate health risk.

Molycorp Inc.'s mineral processing plant near York was also put on the list because of low levels of contaminants in the soil, the NRC said.

A spokesman for its parent company, Los Angeles-based Unocal Corp., said he has not received notice from the NRC to clean up the site.

"We are required to clean up the site once we discontinue operations there but not until then," spokesman Art Bentley told the *Patriot-News* newspaper of Harrisburg.

Barbara Dankmyer, a Molycorp Inc. of Washington representative, refused to comment Thursday night.

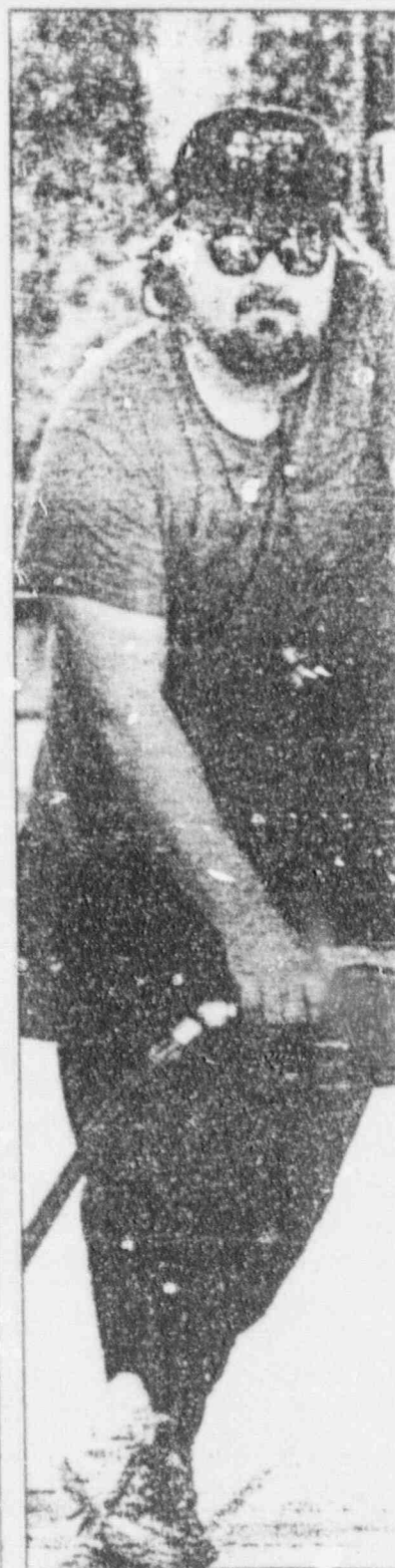
Molycorp Inc. issued layoff notices to most of the plant's 75 employees last September. Most of those layoffs took effect in December. A small crew of employees remains at the plant at Caldwell and Green avenues, but it is essentially shut down.

Molycorp is a wholly owned subsidiary of Union Oil Co. of California.

The Canton Township plant began operations in 1916 as Molybdenum Co. and has been a Unocal subsidiary since 1977. Its major product was molybdenum, which is added to steel to increase strength and hardness and to resist corrosion.

The plant discontinued producing molybdenum in mid-April 1986. At the time Molycorp stopped producing molybdenum, Unocal said it had been absorbing losses at the plant for several years after a decline

Please see MOLYCORP, A2



A real gasser

Goldie, a 4-year-old golden retriever, chauffeur and owner of the family truck Thursday at move, Goldie's favorite spot

Brown uses Pittsburgh



Associated Press

on the Allegheny River in
for the spring and summer

walking so much, that her feet are
swelling more and she needed a
bigger size."

One business that has seen
increased sales is a sporting goods
shop that is selling more bicycles.
Paula Bennett, manager of the
Shadyside Ski Shop, said about one
in five callers looking for bikes
mentions the strike.

"They would call and say be-
cause the buses are on strike, 'I
need a bike' ... or they'd call and
ask, 'Do you have used bikes?'" she
said.

Taxi drivers have also been
busier than usual since about the
third day of the strike, said James
Evans, evening traffic manager for
Yellow Cab Co. He said the phones
started ringing and haven't quit.

City police said this week that

Probe

Continued from Page A1

embezzlement charges in Febru-
ary.

Thursday's indictment provided

person who supplied the stamps
was not identified but was de-
scribed in the indictment as a
postal employee who had bought

Molycorp

Continued from Page A1

In domestic steel production,
combined with competition from
Chile in the world market, had
caused molybdenum prices to skid.

The state and companies that
own radiation-contaminated prop-
erty in Pennsylvania say they
have been cleaning up the sites for
years despite a federal agency's de-
mand for speedier action.

One of the sites is in the state-
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"We've been tracking the prob-
lem for years," said Mary Ellen
Bolish, a spokeswoman for the
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"These types of lists are some-
times a kick to get moving. We're
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in flight," she said.

The state bought the site in the
1960s from a wood-products com-
pany called Permagrain, which
used radioactive material, accord-
ing to the NRC.

The state is researching how to
best deal with the cleanup, Ms.
Bolish said.

burglaries have declined since the
strike began, but detectives aren't
sure whether there is a connection.
Police said one man charged with
22 burglaries admitted using
trolleys to get to and from the
houses he broke into.

Surprisingly, operators of
packed-to-the-brim parking lots
say they aren't necessarily making
more money during the strike be-
cause there is less turnover during
the day.

After a slow start, car-pooling
has finally caught on.

Kathleen Miller manages a ride-
sharing service that serves the
city's Oakland section, home of sev-
eral universities and hospitals. In
the first 10 days of the strike, her
office matched an estimated 1,000
people with volunteer drivers,
which still are needed.

gap between the taxable incomes of
domestic and foreign companies.

The NRC demanded speedier
cleanup of the sites and com-
plained that in some cases efforts
had lagged for years. Owners could
face fines or license restrictions if
they fail to comply.

"Over the long term, if you leave
them uncleaned you'll have an en-
vironmental hazard. To what ex-
tend I don't know," said John Ko-
peck, an NRC spokesman in Wash-
ington.

Other contaminated sites in
Pennsylvania range from glass and
metals companies to a company
that helps build and service nu-
clear power plants, Babcock &
Wilcox.

Two sites owned by the New
Orleans-based Babcock & Wilcox —
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Observer-Reporter

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ASTROSCOPES

Post-It board fax transmittal sheet 7/5/92

Page 1 of 1	
To: A. H. Bentley	From: M. A. Calverich
Cc:	
Subject:	
Date: 1-21-92 9:17-7813	

■ RADIOACTIVE RESIDUES

Area plant makes 'contaminated' list

By Jerry L. Gleason
York Bureau

YORK — A York-area mineral-processing plant is among 46 sites nationwide identified yesterday by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as having minor radioactive contamination.

MolyCorp Inc.'s plant at 350 N. Sherman St. in Spring Garden Twp. made the list because of low levels of thorium contaminants in the soil, according to Frank Ingram, an NRC public affairs officer.

There also are low levels of thorium and uranium contamination in a residue pile on the site, Ingram said. "The residues are radioactive, but the level of contamination is low. There is no immediate safety and health concern," he said.

MolyCorp Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Unocal Corp., based in Los Angeles.

Art Bentley, a Unocal public relations officer, said he can't understand why the York-area plant is on the NRC list.

"There is no health threat at all, and we

"There is no immediate safety and health concern."

Frank Ingram, NRC spokesman

have not received notice from the NRC to clean up the site," Bentley said. "We are required to clean up the site once we discontinue operations there, not not until then."

MolyCorp is licensed to own and store uranium and thorium, radioactive materials that result from processing lanthanide ores, a rare earth group of chemical elements.

Lanthanides, which are mined in the Mojave Desert in California, are used to make television screens, high-strength permanent magnets, high-speed X-ray film, catalysts and other products, Bentley said.

"MolyCorp is a supplier of the minerals. We don't make the end products," he said.

Thirteen of the 46 sites on the list are in Pennsylvania. Others in central Pennsylvania

are a Cabot Corp. site in Reading and a Safety Light Corp. site in Bloomington.

Robert Bernero, director of the NRC's Office of Nuclear Safety and Safeguards, said all of the 46 locations have been segregated and do not pose an immediate health hazard to the public. The NRC is calling for a speedy cleanup of the sites, recommending completion in three years.

Bernero said the contaminated areas, which range from former landfills to portions of factories that once produced nuclear materials, represent "a long-term environmental hazard" that needs to be cleaned up.

The 46 contaminated sites are among thousands of locations around the country where various types of nuclear activities have taken place since World War II, and in many cases have left the potential for radioactive contamination even today.

Bernero said the NRC selected the 46 nuclear-material sites in need of more immediate cleanup from about 36,000 locations the agency has surveyed where nuclear activities have taken place.

The Patriot, Tuesday, April 9, 1992 (Harrisburg, PA)

4.9.1992 13:58
FROM 213 977 773

(1) identifies current criteria to guide cleanup of contaminated soils, structures and equipment and emphasizes the site-specific application of the as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA) principle;

(2) states the NRC's position on the finality of decommissioning decisions;

(3) describes the NRC's general expectation that the cleanup of these sites will be completed within a four-year period after operations cease or three years after the NRC staff issues an initial cleanup order;

(4) identifies currently available guidance on site characterization work in support of decommissioning; and

(5) describes the process for timely cleanup on a site-specific basis.

The Action Plan does not contain enforceable standards and is not intended to create new rights or obligations on third parties. Implementation of the plan may require the establishment of legally-binding requirements by order or license amendment on a case-by-case basis and the plan is not intended to affect the hearing rights associated with such orders or license amendments.

Attachment

EXISTING SITE DECOMMISSIONING MANAGEMENT PLAN (SDMP) SITES

Advanced Medical Systems
ALCOA
AMAX
Aberdeen Proving Ground
Army Arsenal
Babcock and Wilcox
Babcock and Wilcox
BP Chemicals
Budd Company
Cable Corporation
Cable Corporation
Cable Corporation
Chamatron Corporation (Sart Ave.)
Chamatron Corporation (Harvard Ave.)
Chevron Corporation
Dow Chemical
Elkem Metals
Engelhard
Fansteel
General Services Administration
Hartley and Hartley
Heritage Minerals
Kerr-McGee (Cimmaron)
Kerr-McGee
Magnesium Elektron
NE Ohio Regional Sewer District
Nuclear Metals
Molybdenum
Molybdenum
Permagrain
Peters Chemical
Process Technology
Remington Arms Company
RMI Titanium
Safety Light Corporation
Schott Glass
Shieldalloy
Shieldalloy
Texas Instruments
United Nuclear Corporation
Victoreen
Westinghouse (Watts Mill)
West Lake Landfill
Whittaker Metals
Wyman-Gordon
JM Company

Cleveland, OH
Cleveland, OH
Wood City, WV
Aberdeen, MD
Watertown, MA
Apollo, PA
Parks Township, PA
Lima, OH
Philadelphia, PA
Boyertown, PA
Reading, PA
Revere, PA
Cleveland, OH
Cleveland, OH
Pawling, NY
Midland, MI
Marietta, OH
Plainville, MA
Muskegon, MI
Watertown, Boston, MA
Bay City, MI
Lakehurst, NJ
Crescent, OK
Cushing, OK
Flemington, NJ
Cuyahoga Heights, OH
Concord, MA
Washington, PA
York, PA
Madia, PA
Pulaski, PA
Rockaway, NJ
Independence, MO
Ashtabula, OH
Bloomsburg, PA
Duryea, PA
Cambridge, MA
Newfield, NJ
Attleboro, MA
Wood River Junction, RI
Cleveland, OH
Madison, PA
St. Louis, MO
Greenville, PA
North Grafton, MA
New Brighton, MN

Government demands waste sites cleanup

ROCKVILLE, Md. (AP) — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission demanded speedier cleanup of 41 severely contaminated nuclear sites Wednesday, complaining that the effort had lagged for years.

Owners of the facilities, which range from aging landfills to parts of factories that once produced nuclear materials, could face fines or future license restrictions if they don't comply. Most of the sites have long been closed.

Separately, an Environmental Protection Agency study estimated there are more than 45,000 locations nationwide where there once were — or continue to be — nuclear activities that may have contaminated land, buildings or water systems.

In most locations, this contamination is probably at very low levels, barely above background radiation, but in other cases such as at federal weapons facilities it involves highly radioactive wastes and liquids, said officials who have reviewed the EPA study.

The eight-month study, which is to be presented Thursday at a Senate hearing, represents the first attempt to assess radiation pollution nationwide so that new standards for cleanup may be developed.

Among the sites are:

- Various nuclear fuels facilities owned by such companies as Kerr-McGee in Oklahoma and Babcock & Wilcox in Pennsylvania.

- A lighting company factory near Bloomsburg, where filaments once were made using tritium, a radioactive gas, in the manufacture of "exit" signs.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission action focused on a relatively small number of locations where the radioactive contamination from past nuclear activities has been known for years.

Robert Bernero, director of the NRC's Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, said the sites do not pose an immediate health threat because they are not open to the public, but that they represent "a long-term environmental hazard" that needs to be cleaned up.

Wash. Obsv/ Rptr
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NRC