




UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 5, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO: Lawrence G. Bell, Section Leader
Facilities Decommissioning Section
Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning
Projects Branch, DMW, NMSS

FROM: Stewart W. Brown, Project Manager 
Facilities Decommissioning Section
Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning
Projects Branch, DWM, NMSS

SUBJECT: OAK RIDGE INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE AND EDUCATION SURVEY OF
TERMINATED NON-POWER REACTOR LICENSE, ATOMICS INTERNATIONAL
LICENSE R-19 (DOCKET NO. 50-50)

The "Updated Report on Site Decommissioning Management Plan" (SDMP), SECY-91-096, required the review of docket files associated with terminated non-power reactors (NPR) licenses. The purpose of this review was to ensure that no contamination in excess of the current U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) unrestricted release guidelines exists at the previously licensed facilities. In a report dated June 18, 1991, Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE, formerly Oak Ridge Associated of Universities (ORAU)) forwarded the results of their review of 60 terminated NPR licenses. Their review indicated that the docket files associated with 30 of the licenses did not contain sufficient information to support unrestricted release. Further review of these licenses by the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) at the NRC, documented in a report dated July 31, 1992, halved this number.

In the absence of complete information, the following conditions, taken from the July 31, 1992, NRR review, would be sufficient to conclude that the operations associated with a terminated license would pose no hazard for future site occupants:

- 1) The former site has been completely demolished. Either a field, parking lot, or completely new structure currently exists at the old NPR site;
- 2) The building housing the reactor still exists, but the building has been remodeled to the extent that there is nothing left of the reactor facility to survey;
- 3) This site is currently used for some other purpose involving radioactive material; or
- 4) The reactor authorized was either an AGN-201, AGN-211, or L-77 type research reactor.

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If the above conditions are not met and complete information concerning decommissioning and decontamination cannot be found, then both reviews generally called for confirmatory surveys to fill in any information voids.

ORSIE based on its review of License R-19 docket file noted that the docket file did not contain information concerning a confirmatory survey.

On November 15, 1995, NRC Region IV inspected the Vanowen facility, former site of the L-47 reactor. The NRC inspector surveyed the area where the L-47 reactor was located. The inspector based on his survey found no readings above background in or around the former reactor room. In addition, during discussions with the inspector, he stated that he took direct measurements in areas where he would have expected contamination to exist, such as cracks and corners.

Based on the results of this inspection, I would conclude that the concerns originally raised by ORISE have been addressed, and that no significant contamination remains at this site. This information should be placed in the docket files associated with the terminated licenses to avert any future duplication of effort.

Attachment: As stated
cc w/att: Seymour H. Weiss, NRR

Docket No. 50-50
License No. R-19

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Based on the results of this inspection, I would conclude that the concerns originally raised by ORISE have been addressed, and residual contamination at this site is below current NRC guidelines. This information should be placed in the docket files associated with the terminated licenses to avert any future duplication of effort.

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