U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III

Docket No:	040-03616
License No:	SUB-00193 (Terminated on June 3, 1969)
Licensee:	Red Wing Potteries, Inc.
Location:	Red Wing, MN
Date:	May 5, 1997
Inspector:	D. W. Nelson, Radiation Specialist
Approved By:	B. L. Jorgensen, Chief Decommissioning Branch

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Red Wing Potteries, Inc.

NRC Inspection Report No. 040-03616/97001(DNM)

The purpose of the inspection was to perform a final survey of the former Red Wing Potteries, Inc., (RWP) located in Red Wing, MN. Two locations of use named in the license - the fan loft room where the depleted uranium (DU) was stored and/or the vent hood where the DU was processed, could not be found. The inspector surveyed the interior surfaces of the one remaining kiln at the facility and did not identify any radioactive activity above background.

DETAILS

1. Persons Contacted

*K. Koplin, Mall Manager, Pottery Place

2. Background

The Red Wing Potteries, Inc., (RWP) operated a facility in Red Wing, MN, and used depleted uranium as a coloring agent in fired artware and dinnerware. RWP was originally licensed by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) from 1958 to 1969 under License No. SUB-00193 for the possession and use of radioactive depleted uranium (DU) as a coloring agent. The license file indicated that the DU had been stored in a fan loft room and processed in a vent hood. The license file did not specify where the fan loft room or the vent hood were located.

In 1967 the company was liquidated and licensed activities ceased. In a letter dated June 17, 1969, the President of the company, Mr. Gillmer, certified that all of the DU had been used and no DU remained at the facility. There was no record in the license file indicating that a final survey had been performed by the licensee. On June 20, 1969, the license was formally terminated.

3. Confirmatory Survey

Within the Red Wing Potteries, Inc. complex only one building and a kiln remain. The other buildings and kilns were demolished in 1982 and the remaining building was completely remodeled for use as a shopping mall/apartment/office complex. The kiln was saved to be used as an historical display in the mall parking lot.

The inspector was unable to locate the fan loft room or the vent hood identified in the license file. They were presumably demolished.

The inspector surveyed the interior of the one remaining kiln. Scans for alpha/beta activity were performed over 50 percent of the interior surfaces of the kiln. The scans were performed using a Ludlum 2241-2 Scaler/Ratemeter coupled to a Ludlum 44-9 pan-cake probe. No activity greater than background (10 counts per minute (cpm)) was detected.

Based on these results, the NRC has no further regulatory interest or concern with this former licensed facility.

EXIT MEETING

At the conclusion of the onsite inspection on May 5, 1997, the preliminary results of the inspection were discussed with the individual identified below.

PERSONS CONTACTED

*K. Koplin, Manager, Pottery Place

*Indicates those present at the exit meeting on May 5, 1997.

INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED

83890	Closeout Inspection and Survey

LIST OF ACRONYMS USED

Bq	Becquerel
cm^2	centimeters squared
DU	depleted uranium
dpm	disintegrations per minute
G-M	Geiger-Mueller
uCi/ml	microcuries per milliliter
uR/h	microroentgens per hour

ATTACHMENT

Attachment A: Survey Instruments

Attachment A

Survey Instruments

Instrument	Model No.	Serial No.	Detector	Last Calibration
Ludlum	2241-2	115135	Ludlum 44-9	08/02/96

The beta efficiency for the Ludlum 2241-2 meter with the Ludlum 44-9 probe was about 25 percent. A Cs-137 foil source was used for the calibration. The background for the GM pancake probes (Ludlum 44-9) varied from 8 to 10 counts per minute (cpm), depending on the surface materials, such as concrete block, glazed brick, metal, etc.