

June 26, 1997

Docket No. 040-08702
License No. SUB-01339 (Terminated)

Commander
US Army Materiel Command
Attn: AMCSF-P (J. Manfre)
5001 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22333-0001

SUBJECT: FORMER NRC LICENSED FACILITY AT BRIDGE AND TACONY STREETS,
PHILADELPHIA, PA

Dear Mr. Manfre:

The U.S. Army was authorized to conduct licensed activities at the Frankford Arsenal (Arsenal) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), the predecessor agency of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). These activities were conducted under License No. SUB-01339. AEC and NRC licenses normally authorize the use of radioactive materials.

The NRC records for this license were reviewed as part of an NRC program to ensure that facilities, where activities authorized by the Atomic Energy Commission or NRC licenses that have been terminated, are suitable for release for unrestricted use in accordance with current NRC guidelines. As part of this program, our contractor, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), reviewed each terminated license file and scored it according to a system designed to identify facilities which require additional review by NRC staff. In general, files that indicate that licensed material may have been used at particular facilities, but that do not include adequate final survey records for those facilities, were identified for additional review. The review by ORNL identified License No. SUB-01339 as a file describing a site which required additional review.

As discussed in the past, including at meetings at the NRC Region I office in December 1996, your office in January 1997, and at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Conshohocken office in June 1997, the NRC is requesting that surveys be performed at the Arsenal to determine its current radiological status. We agreed that the first step is to have the Army perform a scoping survey at the facility with the cooperation of the current owner. We are in the process of finalizing the terms of the survey with the current owner, and expect to finalize these details within the next three weeks. We are expecting you to ensure funding for the survey. Due to our increased concern about the impact of further delays, we ask that you please ensure that funding is available for the scoping survey in the next three weeks, so that the survey can proceed expeditiously.

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J. Manfre, US Army

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Please call Steve Shaffer of my staff at (610) 337-5256 to discuss the status of the funding availability for this important project.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
Ronald R. Bellamy

Ronald R. Bellamy, Ph.D., Chief
Decommissioning and Laboratory Branch
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

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cc:
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

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