

AUG. 25 1988

Docket No. 040-06394

License No. SMB-141

Department of the Army
Commander
U. S. Army Material Command
ATTN: AMCSF-P Mr. Darwin Taras
5001 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22333-0001

Gentlemen:

Subject: Inspection No. 040-06394/88-01

This letter refers to the special safety inspection conducted Messrs. R. H. Ladun and D. Collins of this office on March 23, 24 and 25, 1988 of activities authorized by NRC License No. SMB-141, at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland and to the discussions of our findings held by Mr. R. H. Ladun with Mr. R. A. Markland, Colonel R. W. Haubarch, and Lieutenant Colonel C. K. Galley, III at the conclusion of the inspection. This letter also refers to a subsequent meeting with Mr. Markland at the Region I office on April 11, 1988.

The inspection was conducted to review releases of airborne depleted uranium from test firing range #14 at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. The inspection was in response to an allegation that smoke had been visibly leaking from a pre-filter housing located on the roof of Range #14, where depleted uranium projectile test firings were conducted, and that the smoke was a health and safety hazard. As a result of our review we determined that small amounts of smoke had been leaking from the pre-filter housing, but our measurements indicate that the leaks did not result in any NRC regulatory release criteria being exceeded. Accordingly, we conclude that no health and safety hazard to workers or the public resulted from the leaks.

While no violations of Nuclear Regulatory Commission requirements were identified, we are concerned that an installed ventilation filtration system to limit releases of depleted uranium particulates to the environment from Range #14 was allowed to malfunction for an extended period of time without adequate management or technical evaluation to assure that regulatory requirements were being met. Therefore, in reply to this letter please describe your actions to assure that, in the future, such problems will be promptly reported to appropriate management and evaluations performed to assure that regulatory requirements are being met.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and your reply will be placed in the Public Document Room.

The response directed by this letter is not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

8809070412 880825
REG1 LIC40
SMB-041 PDC

1/0
2507

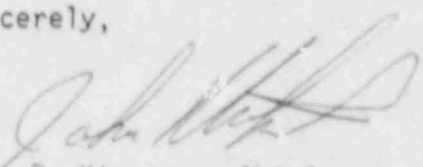
AUG. 25 1988

Department of the Army

2

Your cooperation with us in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,


John D. Kinneman, Chief
Nuclear Materials Safety Section B
Division of Radiation Safety
and Safeguards

cc:
Public Document Room (PDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
State of Maryland

bcc:
Region I Docket Room (w/concurrences)
A. Shropshire, RI

RI:DRSS
Ladun/bc
08/2/88
f*

RI:DRSS
Kinneman
08/1/88
1/21

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

MEMO SHROPSHIRE 4/13/88 - 0001.0.1
08/24/88