

LAW OFFICES
ALSTON, MILLER & GAINES

CITIZENS & SOUTHERN
NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
35 BROAD STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303
404-588-0300

1800 M STREET, N.W., SUITE 1000
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036
202-223-1300

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

June 27, 1978

Mr. Michael Annast
United States Nuclear
Regulatory Commission
Room 1217
230 Peachtree Street
Atlanta, GA 30303

Re: Amax

Dear Mike:

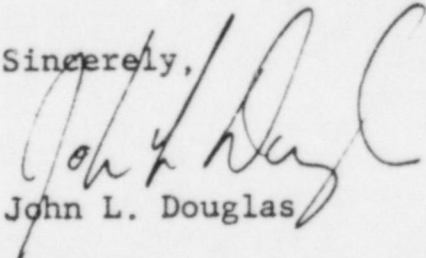
To assist you in your investigation, I am providing you with copies of certain documents relating to the burial of materials at the L.B. Foster Company Parkersburg Plant. The first is a letter from Mr. H. L. Kall, Vice-President of Amax Specialty Metals Corporation dated April 4, 1978. Attached to that letter is a sketch of the areas believed to have been utilized as a burial site at the plant.

The second letter is a L.B. Foster inter-office memorandum from Jim Minter to C.E. Lawson, dated November 28, 1977, describing his findings regarding burial as the area south of the current Foster buildings was excavated.

We attach no confidentiality to the materials. You may make whatever use you desire of the information contained therein for the purposes of your investigation or ongoing enforcement efforts.

Sincerely,

8510170041 850927
PDR FOIA
KOWALSK85-375 PDR


John L. Douglas

cc: Ronald L. Reid, Esq.

Enclosures

14 JLD: mc

A14

AMAX SPECIALTY METALS CORPORATION

P. O. BOX 32 • AKRON, NEW YORK 14001 • (716) 542-5454 • TWX 710-266-1171

April 4, 1978

Mr. R. W. Bledsoe
L. B. Foster Company
3169 Holcomb Bridge Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30071

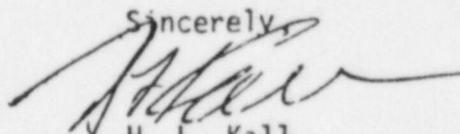
Dear Mr. Bledsoe:

Confirming our telecopy of April 3, attached is copy of L. B. Foster drawing VD-034 on which is indicated those areas we believe to have been utilized as a burial site during the twenty years of plant operations at Parkersburg by both Carborundum and AMAX, and those areas directly adjacent to the burial site which were not utilized for burial. All other areas on the plant site, even though they are not shown on the drawing as such, were not utilized for burial. Only our old plant site was utilized for any manufacturing purpose.

The information shown on the drawing was obtained by direct contact by the writer with the original Carborundum Plant Manager, two other Plant Managers, including Mr. J. Walters the last Technical and Plant Manager, two former production managers and a plant controller, whose combined tenure encompassed the twenty years of plant operations. Carborundum built the plant in 1957 for the production of zirconium metal on original farm land, and when AMAX became sole owner in 1967, the plant continued to produce zirconium metal utilizing the same basic manufacturing process.

We trust the above information will aid in your construction program.

Sincerely,

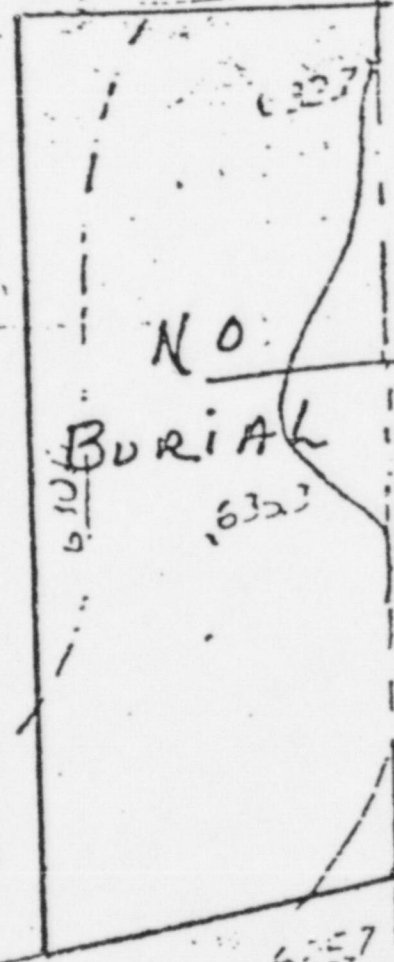
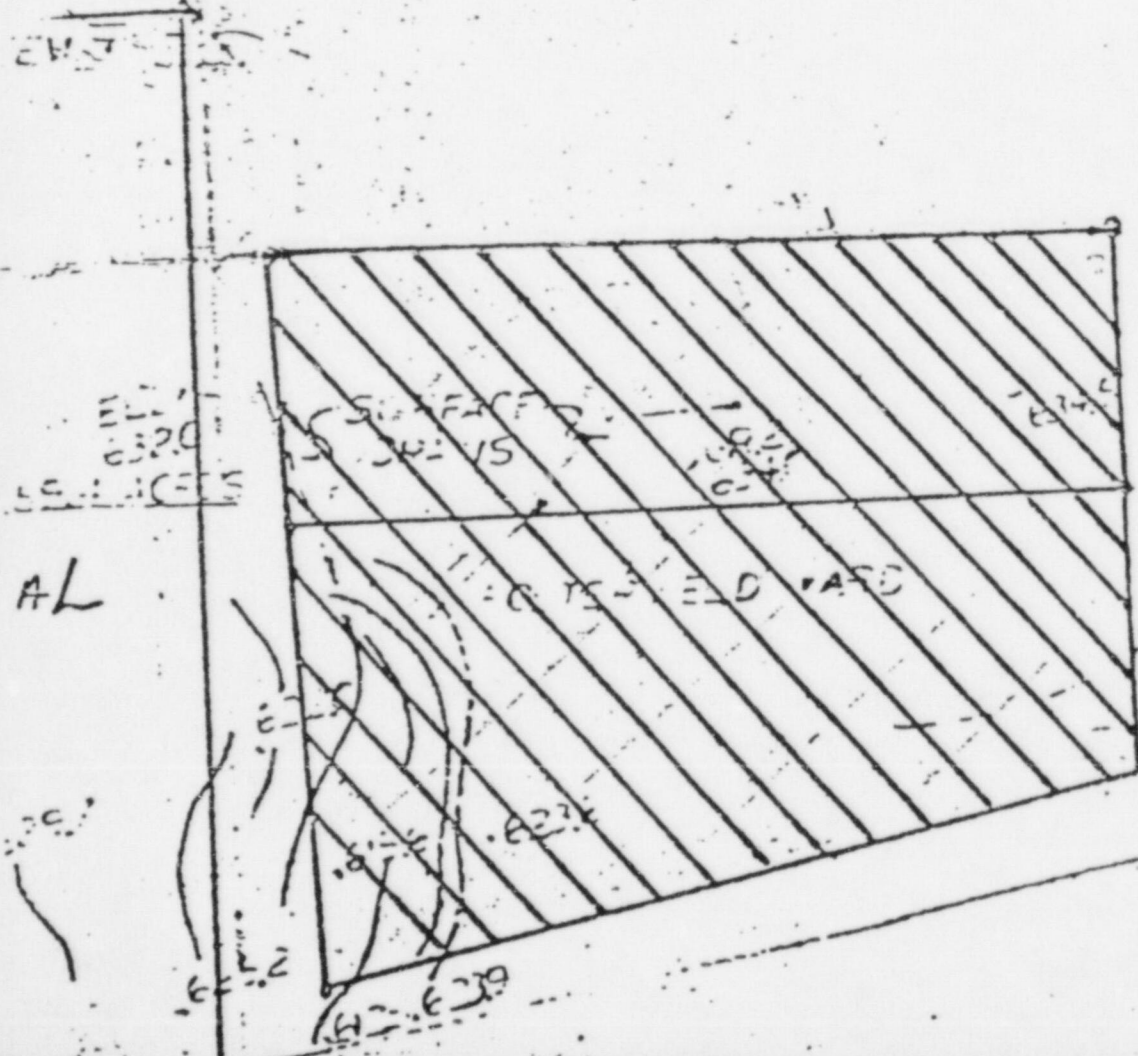
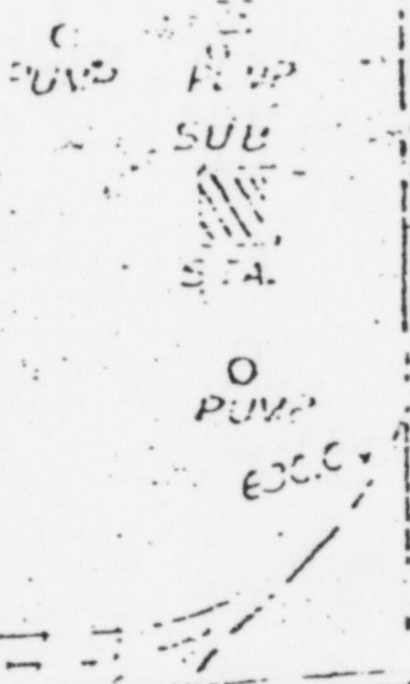
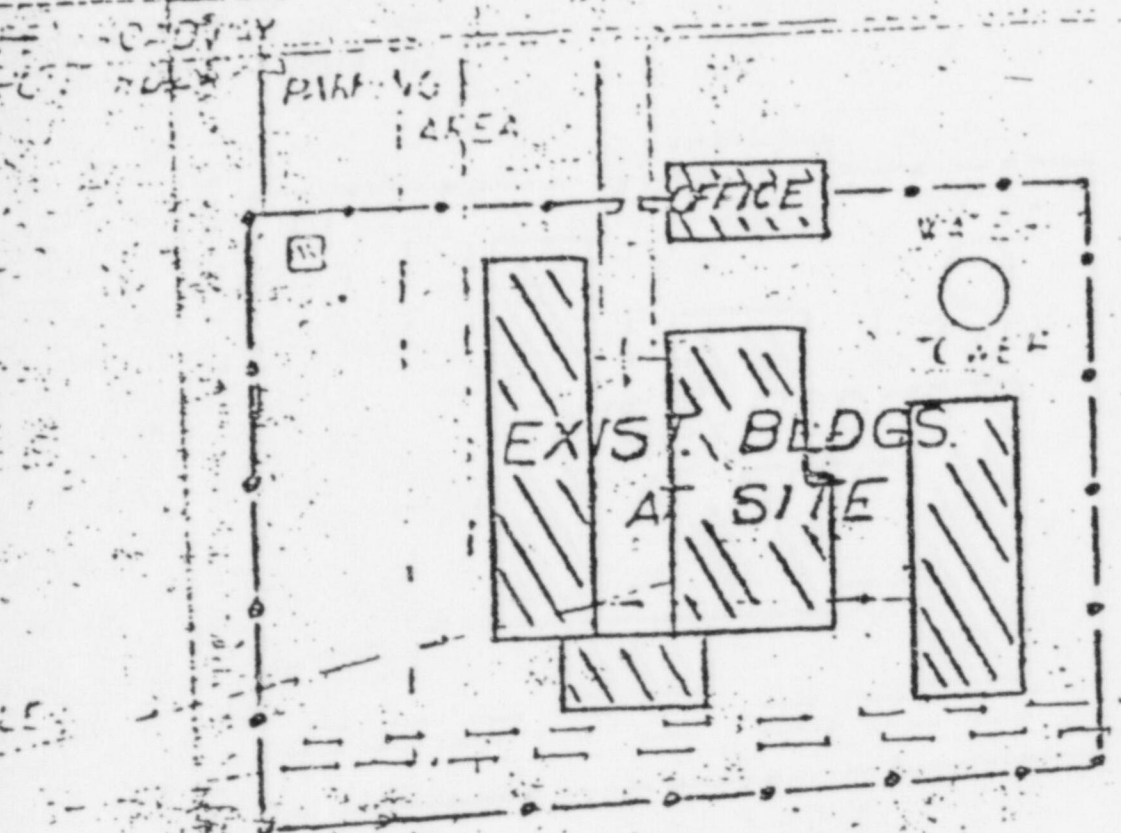


H. L. Kall
Vice President

HLK/ek
Encl.

cc: G. R. Couch
P. J. Hemschoot, Jr.

A14



A14



L.B.FOSTER
COMPANY

415 Holiday Drive
Pittsburgh PA 15220
(412) 928-3400
TWX 710-664-4325

Inter-Office Correspondence

November 28, 1977

C. E. LAWSON

cc: R. W. Bledsoe
H. F. Ford
A. M. Godbee
M. Porter

SITE DEVELOPMENT
NEW PARKERSBURG PLANT

Virginia Western Contracting completed exposure of pyrophoric materials in south yard on November 25, 1977. Much of our site has been revealed as a dump for the non-organic waste products of the Amax operation. Dump consisted mostly of parallel trenches, about 20 ft. wide by several hundred feet long. Each trench is 8 to 10 ft. deep. Sandy backfill over the area protected the pyrophoric materials from exposure and masked prior disclosure of its existence.

I have contacted several people involved with metals refining as to the nature of the encountered explosive materials. My understanding is the pyrophoric materials which were buried at the site are probably: 1) magnesium or one of its compounds; 2) zirconium; 3) hafnium. Each will apparently exhibit the same type of pyrophoric characteristic when exposed to the atmosphere (explosions result when the material is exposed rather than when it is struck). Age tends to increase the pyrophoric characteristic of the buried materials due to absorbed moisture and oxygen in the buried state.

A14