

# TDH

# **Texas Department of Health**

William R. Archer III, M.D. Commissioner

1100 West 49th Street Austin, Texas 78756-3189 (512) 458-7111

Radiation Control (512) 834-6688

January 20, 1999

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission ATTN: Paul Lohaus, Deputy Director Office of State Programs Mail Stop O3H20 Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Lohaus:

The Texas Department of Health (TDH) has received a request from USX Corporation (USX), Texas Uranium Operations, dated December 8, 1997 (Enclosure 1), pertaining to the 28.2 acre Pawlik Production Area on Radioactive Material License No. L02449. The Licensee is requesting that the area be removed from the license.

The license authorized in <u>situ</u> leach mining in the area. This area was operated from 1977 to 1987, when production operations were ceased and reclamation efforts were commenced.

From 1987 until 1996 groundwater restoration was performed along with limited surface reclamation. The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission authorized ceasing groundwater restoration and final plugging of all wells in July 1996 (Enclosure 2). Following plugging of all wells, full scale surface reclamation and decommissioning began

During surface reclamation and decommissioning all material and equipment was surveyed for radioactive contamination. Any material and/or equipment which was contaminated was disposed of by utilizing one of the following methods:

transfer to another licensed mine site; decontamination and release for unrestricted use; or disposal at a licensed byproduct disposal facility.

Proper disposal of all material and/or equipment was documented by the licensee.

Direct surveys, by the licensee, to confirm the effectiveness of reclamation and decommissioning activities of land were performed by defining ten meter by ten meter squares in a grid pattern across the production area and taking five readings in each square with a micro-R meter. The licensee subsequently requested removal of the production area from its license.

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Reclamation and decommissioning activities were completed at the site in 1997.

In December, 1997, TDH personnel performed a confirmation survey of the production area. The surveys were performed using one-by-one sodium iodide probes and Ludlum 14C survey meters. The purpose of the survey was to allow the Licensee to release the production area for unrestricted use. Two times background was used as an allowable limit (TDH Regulatory Guide 5.10, Guidelines for Conducting Close Out Surveys of Open Lands and Requesting Release for Unrestricted Use). The survey was performed by walking 10 meters apart moving across the production area. Background readings were 1500 cpm, 2000 cpm, and 2400 cpm on the three instruments used.

Sixteen areas were identified which exceeded two times background. These areas were cleaned up by the Licensee and resurveyed by TDH personnel. Two areas still exceeded two times background after the cleanup. After the Licensee had completed their cleanup, soil samples were retrieved from five areas by TDH personnel, including the two which exceeded two times background (TDH Regulatory Guide 5.10, Guidelines for Conducting Close Out Surveys of Open Lands and Requesting Release for Unrestricted Use). Soil sample results were within the regulatory limits for radium-226 and natural uranium soil concentrations of 5 pCi/gm and 30 pCi/gm, respectively, except for two soil samples which exceeded these limits.

In April, 1998, TDH personnel returned to the Pawlik Production Area to survey and take soil samples after the Licensee had cleaned the areas that had exceeded release limits. Soil sample results were within the regulatory limits for radium-226 and natural uranium soil concentrations of 5 pCi/gm and 30 pCi/gm, respectively.

On-site disposal of solid radioactive material or byproduct material was not authorized at this facility. Thus, there is no land to be transferred to the State of Texas or the Federal Government.

As a result of these findings, we are proposing to remove the Pawlik Production Area from this license (Enclosure 3). All data supporting our proposal are kept on file and is available at TDH should it be necessary for reference at a future date. Please advise if the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission wishes additional material or information in order to make a determination regarding concurrence with our proposal that the production area be removed from this license. If additional information is required, please contact Mr. Eugene Forrer of my staff at (512) 834-6688, ext. 2208.

This letter is a resubmittal of a request sent in September of 1998.

As maintaining this site places an undue economic burden and hardship on the licensee, we request expeditious processing of this request.

Sincerely.

Richard A. Ratliff, P.E. Chief Bureau of Radiation Control

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Enclosures

# Enclosure 1

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# MEMORANDUM

DATE:

December 8, 1997

TO:

**Brad Caskey** 

FROM:

Chuck Wentz

RE:

Areas ready to be surveyed

As per our conversation on Friday, I am providing the following list of areas ready to be surveyed by the TDH.

- Pawlik pattern area. About 28.2 acres were surveyed by TUO personnel. This includes a 30 meter "boarder", the actual pattern area is about 22 acres. A survey map is attached for you to review. All of the mine aquifer wells have been plugged and abandoned.
- The Burns Ranch (WDW 130) holding pond. This is a 400 ft X 400 ft pond. A drawing of the pond is attached.
- 3. Three Dalco pits. Total area is about 1.5 acres. The individual dimensions are: Pit No. 1, 110 ft X 245 ft; Pit No. 2, 170 ft X 140 ft, and Pit No. 3, 120 ft X 120 ft.
- 4. Two septic tank systems. Sketches are attached. One system has about 240 ft of small tranches, the other system has about 40 ft of trenches.
- Two trench areas that were surveyed by the TDH last week and had to be remediated. Approximate combined area is about 140 square feet.

c. Wenty

USX Corporation Texas Uranium Operations Drawer V George West, TX 78022 512 566 2441

September 22, 1998



Mr. Gene Forrer, Chief Uranium Licensing Project Texas Department of Health 1100 W 49th Street Austin, Texas 78756-3199

RECEIVED TDH SEP 2 8 1998

Re: Pawlik Wellfield Close-out Surveys and Analytical Results Radioactive Material License No. L02449 TNRCC Permit No. UR02368 PAA 011

RADIATION CONTROL

Dear Mr. Forrer:

USX/Texas Uranium Operations (TUO) provides the following information for the Pawlik wellfield micro(µ)R/Hr surveys and soil analyses.

### PATTERN AREA

The preliminary  $\mu$ R/Hr soil surveys were conducted from June 16, 1996 to July 5, 1996. The pattern area was marked in 10 meter grids with a 30 meter perimeter area surrounding the actual patterns. The grids were surveyed using Ludium Model 19 micro R meters such that at least five readings were recorded within each 100 sq. meter grid. Areas that had readings above twice background were flagged and delineated for the extent of contamination.

Contaminated material from the initial survey was shipped to Rio Grande Resources' waste site at Panna Maria, Texas. Follow-up surveys were conducted in the summer of 1997 prior to a request to have the TDH perform a confirmation survey of the pattern area in a memo to Mr. Brad Caskey on December 8, 1997.

The confirmation survey was completed during the third week of December 1997. Sixteen areas showed readings more than twice background. Ten of these areas were small enough to be remediated during the confirmation survey. The µR/Hr readings for five areas remained questionable. The TDH and TUO split samples at these five locations and took one sample from an area designated as a background reading. The results of the split sampling and other soil samples taken by TUO personnel are shown in Table 1. Also attached with this report is a map showing the final µR/Hr survey readings.

### **PAWLIK PIPELINES**

Two sixteen inch pipelines were used to transfer production solution and barren solution between the Pawlik pattern area and Satellite IV at the Boots/Brown mine. Survey data taken along the transfer pipelines are shown in Tables 2 and 3.

Mr. Gene Forrer Page 2. September 22, 1998

# SPILL REVIEW

Review of the spill files showed that seven spills had been reported since 1981. These spills are listed in Table 5. Most of the spills were within the pattern area. Three of the spills were along the Pawlik pipelines discussed in the previous section. Survey data and soil samples taken from the spill area adjacent to the pipeline are shown in Table 4.

## SUMMARY

Maps included with this report are a Permit location map and pattern area survey map. Tables included are pattern soil samples, pipeline surveys, spill surveys and soil samples, and a list of the spills.

The surface area of Permit 02368 PAA 011 has been remediated and documented. TUO is requesting that the surface area at the Pawlik mine be released for unrestricted use.

If you have any questions or need additional information please call me at 512-449-2515 or fax at 512-566-2442.

Sincerely,

Charles N. Wentz.

Manager - Operations

Charles M. Wenty

Enclosure 2

Barry R. McBee, Chairman
R. B. "Ralph" Marquez, Commissioner
John M. Baker, Commissioner
Dan Pearson, Executive Director



7April 1988

DPB

# TEXAS NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

April 2, 1998

Mr. Douglas Boyea, Manager-Environmental Affairs USX Corporation Drawer V George West, TX 78022

Re: Voluntary Revocation of Permit UR02368, Pawlik Mine

Dear Mr. Boyea:

In accordance with 30 TAC §305.67(b), the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission revokes permit UR02368.

Groundwater was restored following criteria set forth in 30 TAC 331.107. An amendment to Production Area Authorization No. 1, modifying restoration table values in accordance with 30 TAC 331.107(f)(2) was signed by the Executive Director on June 21, 1996. All of the Class III wells were plugged as of October 1996, and certifications have been received from the mine operator and from an independent registered professional engineer that plugging was accomplished in accordance with the plugging and abandonment plan in the permit. This letter serves as notification that Permit UR02368 is no longer in effect.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. John Santos at 512/239-1030, mail code MC131.

Sincerely,

Alice Hamilton Rogers, P.E., Manager

Underground Injection Control and Radioactive Waste Section

Industrial and Hazardous Waste Division

AHR/JJS/jb

cc: Mr. Ray Leissner, EPA Region 6, 6WQ-S

Mr. Richard Ratliff, TDH

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Barry R. McBee, Chairman
R. B. "Ralph" Marquez, Commissioner
John M. Baker, Commissioner
Dan Pearson, Executive Director



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# TEXAS NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

July 11, 1996

Doug Boyea
USX Corporation
Drawer V
George West, TX 78022

Re: Restoration Determination of Pawlik Mine, Permit No. UR02368-011

Dear Mr. Boyea:

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission has received the restoration data for Production Area 1 of the Pawlik Mine. A review of the data shows that the production area has been restored in accordance with the specifications contained in permit URO236B and as required by 30 TAC §331.107. You are now authorized to cease any restoration activities, including monitoring, at this production area.

Within 120 days of receipt of this letter, closure of the wellfield shall be accomplished following the approved plugging and abandonment plans for this site. If necessary, additional time may be granted for plugging the wells provided that the Commission is notified in advance. The Commission must approve any changes to the plugging procedures or the plugging schedule.

Please notify the Commission before commencing plugging activities to provide the opportunity for TNRCC personnel to be present. If you have any questions, please contact me at 512/239-6633 or John Santos of the UIC Permitting Team at 512/239-1030, or send correspondence to Mail Code MC-131.

Sincerely,

Ben Knape

UIC Permitting Team Leader

UIC, Uranium, and Radioactive Waste Section

Industrial and Hazardous Waste Division

BK/JJS

cc: John Santos



# Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission

Austin, Texas

### PRODUCTION AREA AUTHORIZATION

Mine: Pawlik

Production Are UR00088-011

This Production Area Authorization supersedes and replaces Permit No. URO 2368-011 issued October 27, 1987

AUTHORIZATION to conduct underground injection under provisions of Permit No. UR02368

I. Name of Permittee:

A. Name:

USX Corporation

B. Address:

Drawer V

George West, TX 78022

II. Name of Mine:

Pawlik

III. Standard Provisions:

- A. Restoration Table
- B. Control Parameter Upper Limits Table
- C. Designated Monitor Well Table
- D. Permit Area Map

CONTINUED on Pages 2 through 10

The permittee is authorized to conduct injection activity in accordance with limitations, requirements, and other conditions set forth herein. This Authorization is granted subject to the provisions of Permit No. UR02368. This Authorization is valid until amended or revoked by the Commission.

DATE ISSUED: JUN 2 1 1996

ATTEST: Movie a. Varquez.

For the Commission

Page 2

- E. Mining and Restoration Schedule
- F. Plan View of Mine Area
- G. Baseline Water Quality Table

Page 3

# ATTACHMENT A

# RESTORATION TABLE

(Amended)

Parameter	Unit	Concentration	
		"A" zone	"B" zone
Calcium	mg/l	225.	51
Magnesium	mg/l	50.	11.
Sodium	mg/l	750.	290.
Potassium	mg/l	32.	16.
Ricarbonate	mg/l	325.	321.
Sulfate	mg/l	275.	20.
Chloride	mg/l	1405.	386.
Fluoride	mg/l	0.9	1.08
Nitrate-N	mg/l	0.05	0.03
Silica	mg/l	39.	37.
pH	std. units	6.0-9.0	6.0 - 9.0
TDS	mg/l	2607.	1002
Conductivity	umhos	4566.	1748
Alkalinity	std. units	290.	263
Arsenic	mg/l	0.0030	0.001
Cadmium	mg/l	0.0002	0.0001
Iron	mg/l	.27	0.29
Lead	mg/l	0.002	0.001
Manganese	mg/l .	0.09	0.037
Mercury	rng/l	0.0001	0.000
Molybdenum	mg/l	0.07	0.01
Selenium	mg/l	0.001	0.001
Uranium	mg/l	0.02	0.002
Radium 226	pC/I	92.5	22.7
Ammonia	mg/l	0.2	0.11

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# ATTACHMENT B

# CONTROL PARAMETER UPPER LIMITS TABLE

Control Parameter	Production Zone
	A and B Zone
Ammonia, mg/l	5.31
Conductivity, µmhos	5350.
Sulfate, mg/l	187.
Uranium, mg/l	5.00

# Non-Production Zone

Control Parameter	C Zone	D Zone	Goliad
Arnmonia, mg/l	5.08	5.15	5.04
Conductivity, µmhos	2438	2538	4375
Sulfate, mg/l	185.	185	578
Uranium, mg/l	5.00	5.00	5.01

Production Area Authorization #1 UR02368-011

# ATTACHMENT C

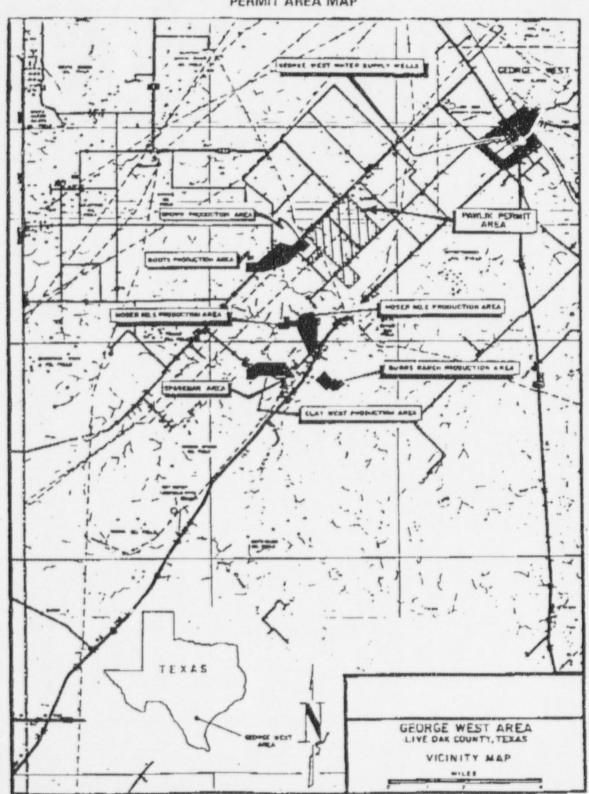
# DESIGNATED MONITOR WELL TABLE

Production Zone	Non Production Zone	
501 MD	First Overlying Aguifer	
502 MD		
503 MD	526 MS	
504 MD	527 MS	
505 MD	528 MS	
506 MD	529MS	
507 MD	530MS	
508 MD	532MS	
509 MD	OW-16	
510 MD		
511 MD	Second Overlying Aguifer	
OW-4	G-succificación de	
538 MD	519MD	
537 MD	520MD	
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	Second Overlying Aquifer	
	534MS	
	535MS	
	536M\$	
	OW-17	

Page 6

# ATTACHMENT D

# PERMIT AREA MAP



Page 7

# ATTACHMENT E

# MINING AND RESTORATION SCHEDULE

Mining Phase

Restoration Phase

Start

End

Start

End

August 1980

June 1984

August 1982

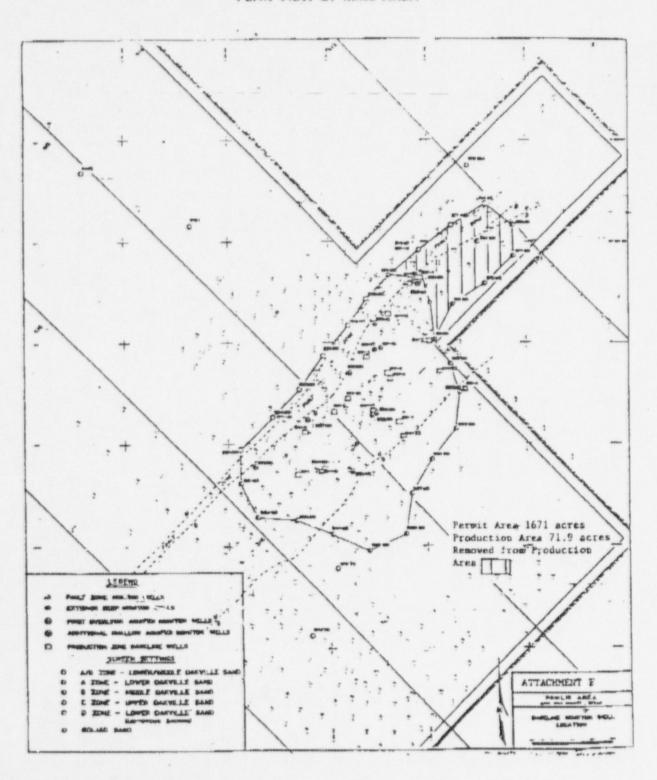
June 1995

Page 8

THE RESERVE OF STREET

# ATTACHMENT F

# PLAN VIEW OF MINE AREA



Page 9

## ATTACHMENT G

# BASELINE WATER QUALITY TABLE

ATTACIBLE HI G

BASELINE WATER QUALITY TABLE - In Site Uranum Mining

Mine Name: 1 av 1 1 k

Mine Are: 67366-011

Date Summarizest: 4/2/00 - 4/3/80

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# ATTACHMENT G (con't) BASELINE WATER QUALITY TABLE

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Enclosure 3



# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

# **MEMO**

TO:

GENE FORRER

LICENSE FILE L02449

THRU:

ROBERT FREE

ARTHUR TATE
RUTH MCBURNEY

M:

OSCAR LESSARD

SUBJECT:

RELEASE FOR UNRESTRICTED USE

PAWLIK PATTERN

USX CORPORATION, GEORGE WEST, TX

DATE:

JUNE 5, 1998

## PAWLIK PATTERN:

On December 15-17, 1997, Bureau of Radiation Control employees, Brad Caskey, Oscar Lessard, and Gene Forrer, performed a survey of the Pawlik Pattern at USX Corporation in George West, Texas. The surveys were performed using one-by-one sodium iodide probes and Ludlum 14C survey meters. The purpose of the survey was to allow the Licensee to release the 28.2 acres for unrestricted use. Two times background was used as an allowable limit (Regulatory Guide 5.10, Guidelines for Conducting Close Out Surveys of Open Lands and Requesting Release for Unrestricted Use). The survey was performed by walking 10 meters apart moving across the wellfield pattern. Background readings ranged from 1500 cpm for Oscar Lessard, 2000 cpm for Gene Forrer and 2400 cpm for Brad Caskey. Maps and survey results are attached (see Attachment A-1).

Sixteen areas were identified which exceeded two times background. These areas were cleaned up by the Licensee and resurveyed.

Sample #	Sample Identification	Pre-Cleanup (cpm)	Post-Cleanup (cpm)
1	30 E/W by 100 N/S	4000	4000
2	70 E/W by 100 N/S	5000	4000
3*	165 E/W by 120 N/S	10,000	4000
4	190 E/W by 170 N/S	6000	4000
5	130 E/W by 180 N/S	12,000	4000
6*	310 E/W by 160 N/S	20,000	4000

Sample #	Sample Identification	Pre-Cleanup (cpm)	Post-Cleanup (cpm)
7	355 E/W by 50 N/S	20,000	4000
8*	550 E/W by 230 N/S	35,000	4000
9	570 E/W by 230 N/S	40,000	5000
10	575 E/W by 230 N/S	12,000	4000
11	580 E/W by 210 N/S	10,000	4000
12	630 E/W by 175 S	10,000	4000
13	650 E/W by 175 N/S	5000	4000
14	610 E/W by 230 N/S	5000	4000
15	650 E/W by 225 N/S	10,000	4000
16*	700 E/W by 240 N/S	10,000	6000
Background	* 360 E/W by 100 N/S	2400	2400

<sup>\*</sup> soil samples obtained

Soil samples were retrieved from five areas (Sample #'s 3, 6, 8, 16, and Background) after the Licensee cleaned them up. Soil samples collected were representative of the 100 square meter by 15 centimeter in depth sampling method. Five each 15 centimeter deep core samples were collected in each 100 square meter area. The five core samples from each 100 square meter area were then dried and mixed together. A representative sample from the mixture was used for analysis. Results of the five soil samples for radium-226 and natural uranium concentrations in picocuries per gram (pCi/gm) are as follows:

Sample #	Radium-226 (pCi/gm)	Nat Uranium (pCi/gm)
3	5.4 (4.4)	2.3
6	5.4 (4.4)	2.8
8	6.9 (5.9)**	6.1
16	13 (12)**	< 2.0
Background	1.0	< 2.0

<sup>(</sup>x) results after subtracting background

Soil sample results were within regulatory limits for radium-226 and natural uranium soil concentrations (5 pCi/gm and 30 pCi/gm, respectively) except for soil sample #'s 8 and 16. Soil sample # 16 was taken from an area of approximately 200 square meters where the radiation levels were 6000 cpm over the entire area.

On April 28-30, 1998, Brad Caskey, Rick Munoz, Mike Dunn, and Oscar Lessard returned to the Pawlik Pattern to resurvey and retake soil samples after the Licensee recleaned the land areas identified as sample #8 and sample #16.

<sup>\*\*</sup> exceeds regulatory limits

Results of the two soil samples for radium-226 and natural uranium concentrations in picocuries per gram (pCi/gm) are as follows (see Attachment A-2):

Sample #	Radium-226 (pCi/gm)	Nat Uranium (pCi/gm)
8	2.8 (1.8)	2.6
16	3.7 (2.7)	< 2.0

(x) results after subtracting background

# CONCLUSION:

Recommend Pawlik Pattern wellfield be released for unrestricted use.

NRC FORM 8C (7-94) NRCMD 3.57

# **COVER SHEET FOR CORRESPONDENCE**

USE THIS COVER SHEET TO PROTECT ORIGINALS OF MULTI-PAGE CORRESPONDENCE