

May 7, 1999

Docket No. 040-01266

License No. SUB-466 (Terminated)

Roger D. Towe, P.E.
Principal Environmental Engineer
El Paso Energy Corporation
P. O. Box 2511
Houston, TX 77002-2511

Dear Mr. Towe:

On December 9 and 10, 1998, John Wray of this office conducted a safety inspection at the site of the former Tenneco Polymers facility on Industrial Avenue in Fords, New Jersey. The inspection was limited to observations by the inspector, interviews with personnel, selective examination of records, and confirmatory surveys of remediated areas of the facility. In addition, our inspection examined the activities covered in two reports, dated September 22, 1998, entitled "Radiological Risk Analysis", and December 8, 1998, entitled "Post Remediation Survey Results for Structures", submitted to the NRC by SECOR International Incorporated. The findings of the inspection were discussed with you and Ravi Gupta of SECOR International at the conclusion of the inspection. Within the scope of this inspection, no violations were identified.

The inspection confirmed that exposure rate measurements and accessible surface contamination levels within Buildings 12 and 12A meet the NRC guideline values for release for unrestricted use. However, samples taken from the area west and south of these buildings indicate radioactive material remains in excess of the guidelines for release of the soil for unrestricted use. In your September 22, 1998, submittal, you proposed to leave this residual radioactive material in the soil and provided a technical justification demonstrating that public health and safety will not be adversely affected.

The NRC has completed its review of this proposal and prepared a Safety Evaluation Report (SER). We have performed independent calculations to determine the dose consequences to the most highly exposed individual from the amount of radioactive material in the soil. These calculations were performed assuming that the property would be developed for industrial use in accordance with the Master Redevelopment Plan for the Town of Woodbridge. A summary of our calculations and our conclusions are presented in the enclosed SER.

Based on our review, we conclude that the radioactive material can remain in place and will have no adverse impact on public health and safety. We have no objections to the development of this site for industrial use in accordance with the Master Redevelopment Plan for the Town of Woodbridge. This completes our review of the remediation activities at this site.

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C PDR

R. Towe
El Paso Energy Corporation

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In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules and Practices," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter will be placed in the Public Document Room. No reply to this letter is required.

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Ronald R. Bellamy

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

cc:
Ravi Gupta
Edward J Truskowski, Research Scientist
State of New Jersey

R. Towe
El Paso Energy Corporation

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