



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY AVIATION AND MISSILE COMMAND (PROV.)
REDSTONE ARSENAL, ALABAMA 35898-5000

SEP 22 1999

Safety Office

SUBJECT: Recovery of Magnesium-Thorium Metal at Southern
Aluminum Casting

Mr. Mark Lesser
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II, Material Licensing Section
61 Forsyth Street, NW, Suite 23T85
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3415

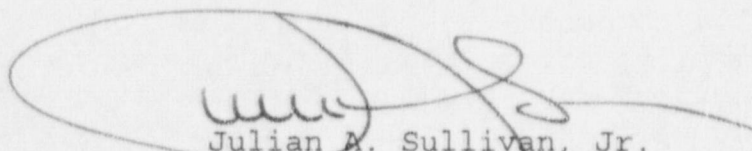
Dear Mr. Lesser:

In response to the subject letter dated August 13, 1999, we have requested the Army's radioactive waste disposal activity, the Industrial Operations Command (IOC), to recover the magnesium-thorium from Southern Aluminum Casting. IOC has sent personnel to the site, taken samples, and had them analyzed. The results were sent to Waste Control Specialists in Texas, and they have agreed to accept the waste. Vista Technologies has been contracted to dispose of the waste no later than the week of October 18, 1999.

Although, it cannot be substantiated that the thorium contaminated material was released from an Army facility; the Army has taken steps to properly dispose of the material. We regret any inconvenience this incidence has caused Southern Aluminum Casting.

As noted in previous correspondence, corrective actions have been taken that should ensure this problem will not happen again.

Sincerely,


Julian A. Sullivan, Jr.
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding

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