



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

July 22, 1998

EA 98-385

Daniel Longo, President/CEO
Geotechnical Consultants, Inc.
720 Greencrest Drive
Westerville, OH 43081-1657

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 030-31021/98001(DNMS)

Dear Mr. Longo:

This refers to the inspection conducted on July 8-9, 1998, at Geotechnical Consultants, Inc., in Westerville, Ohio. The inspection included the accompaniment of two Ohio Department of Health inspectors. At the conclusion of the site inspection, the preliminary inspection findings were discussed with you and members of your staff.

Areas examined during the inspection are identified in the enclosed report. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of independent radiation surveys, review of records, interviews with personnel, and facility tours. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether activities authorized by the license were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements.

Based on the results of this inspection, five apparent violations were identified. The apparent violation regarding failure to secure licensed material from unauthorized access during storage is considered significant, and it is being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), NUREG-1600. Accordingly, we are withholding the issuance of our enforcement proposal regarding the apparent violations until we have completed our review.

The circumstances surrounding the apparent violations, the significance of the issue, and the need for effective and comprehensive corrective action were discussed with you during a teleconference on July 16, 1998. As a result, it may not be necessary to conduct a predecisional enforcement conference in order to enable the NRC to make an enforcement decision. However, a Notice of Violation is not presently being issued for these inspection findings. Before the NRC makes its enforcement decision, we are providing you an opportunity to either (1) respond to the apparent violations addressed in this inspection report within 30 days of the date of this letter or (2) request a predecisional enforcement conference. Please contact Mr. John Madera of my staff at (630) 829-9834 within 7 days of the date of this letter to notify the NRC of your intended response.

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Your response should be clearly marked as a "Response to An Apparent Violation in Inspection Report 030-31021/98001(DNMS)" and should include for each apparent violation: (1) the reason for the apparent violation, or, if contested, the basis for disputing the apparent violation, (2) the corrective steps that have been taken and the results achieved, (3) the corrective steps that will be taken to avoid further violations, and (4) the date when full compliance will be achieved. Your response should be submitted under oath or affirmation and may reference or include previous docketed correspondence, if the correspondence adequately addresses the required response. If an adequate response is not received within the time specified or an extension of time has not been granted by the NRC, the NRC will proceed with its enforcement decision or schedule a predecisional enforcement conference.

In addition, please be advised that the number and characterization of the apparent violations described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review. You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response (if you choose to provide one) will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room. To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be placed in the PDR without redaction.

Sincerely,

/s/ R. J. Caniano for

Cynthia D. Pederson, Director
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No. 030-31021
License No. 34-26022-01

Enclosure: Inspection Report 030-31021/98001(DNMS)

cc w/encl: Frank Talbot, Ohio Department of Health
Robert Reid, Ohio Department of Health

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