

70-734  
June 9, 1998  
696-2922

**VIA EXPRESS MAIL**

Mr. Charles E. Gaskin  
Licensing Section 1/Licensing Branch  
Division of Fuel Cycle and Safety and Safeguards, NMSS  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

and

Mr. Dean Chaney  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region IV - Walnut Creek Field Office  
1450 Maria Lane, Suite 210  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Subject: **License No. SNM-696; Notification Regarding Performance of and Intent to Perform Final Radiological Surveys**

Dear Messrs. Gaskin and Chaney:

As you are aware, General Atomics (GA) is actively implementing site-wide decommissioning activities following two (2) decommissioning plans, each of which was approved by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The first of these plans is the "General Atomics Hot Cell Decommissioning Plan," and the second is the "General Atomics' Site Decommissioning Plan."

GA's site decommissioning plan was approved by License Amendment 45, dated April 29, 1998, which included License Condition S-24. License Condition S-24 (LC S-24) states:

"The licensee shall develop individual survey plans for each facility or group of laboratories and provide NRC a 30 day notification, prior to GA initiating a final survey, to allow the NRC to schedule in-process inspections/surveys if required."

The purpose of the notification specified in LC S-24 is "to allow the NRC to schedule in-process inspections/surveys if required." Toward that end, GA has, for quite some time, been routinely providing decommissioning survey information to Mr. Dean Chaney of Region IV.

On March 20, 1998, prior to the approval of GA's site decommissioning plan, Ms. Laura Gonzales and I met with NRC staff at NRC headquarters and discussed GA's in-progress decommissioning activities, including surveys, and GA's accelerated decommissioning schedule. The on-going activities discussed in March, as well as additional activities that were in progress when GA received License Amendment 45 and LC S-24, involve surveys. These surveys have been, and are being, conducted following individual survey plans. Depending upon what the results of these various individual radiological surveys are, many may become final surveys or portions thereof.

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The purpose of this letter is to document GA's notification, pursuant to LC S-24, that there are numerous surveys of varying status. Some final surveys have been completed and reports are being prepared to document the results, others are currently in progress, and still others that may be commencing in about 30 days. In particular, the following facilities or groups of laboratories are actively being decommissioned and final surveys have been completed, are being performed, or will commence in about 30 days. The following list is separated into groups according to what category of licensed material(s) constitutes the primary contaminate(s):

**Primary Contaminate: SNM:**

- Building 22 (TRIGA Fuel Fabrication Facility)  
Many surveys completed, others in progress
- Building 9 - Room 049 (Equipment Room) used in past for TRIGA fuel fabrication  
Some surveys completed, others to commence soon

**Primary Contaminate: SNM and Source Material:**

- Building 39 (SVB) (Pilot Plant and Fuel Process Development Labs)  
Some surveys complete. Similar to what GA did with its "Building 37 - North" (SVA-North), and what it is doing with its Hot Cell Facility, GA plans to demolish Building 39 (SVB) and seek release of the site where the building once stood, plus an extended footprint of land area.
- Building 37 -South (stored packaged LLW, non-rad projects, and offices)  
Surveys may commence in 30 days

**Primary Contaminate: Source and/or Byproduct Material:**

- Building 27 (Radiochemistry)  
Many surveys completed, others in progress
- Building 27-1 (Radiochemistry Bunker)  
Surveys to commence soon
- Building 35 (Test Tower)  
Final surveys completed
- Building 30/31 Complex (LINAC)
  - "Phase II"  
Surveys complete
  - "Phase III"  
Surveys in progress
  - "Phase IV"  
Surveys may start within 30 days
  - "Phase V"  
Surveys may start in 30 days



**Potentially Contaminated with SNM, Source and/or Byproduct Material:**

Building 35-1 (Shipping and Receiving)  
    Surveys complete  
Building 2 - "Group 10" labs (Laboratory Building)  
    Some surveys complete, others in progress  
Building 2 - (Service Core)  
    Some surveys complete, others to commence within 30 days  
Building 31-1 (Radioactive Material Storage)  
    Surveys in progress  
Building 23 (Hot Cell Facility)  
    Many surveys complete, some surveys in progress, additional soil  
    measurements to commence in future

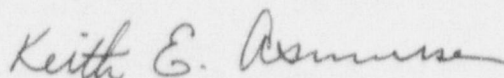
**Non-impacted Areas:**

Building 21 (TRIGA Offices)  
Land area south of Building 30

Note that for many buildings, final surveys will address not only the building itself, but also an associated land area, or "extended footprint."

If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact Laura Gonzales at (619) 455-2758, or me at (619) 455-2823.

Very truly yours,



Dr. Keith E. Asmussen, Director  
Licensing, Safety and Nuclear Compliance