



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 17, 1999

DOCKET NO: 70-734

LICENSEE: General Atomics (GA)  
San Diego, California

SUBJECT: SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT: SORRENTO VALLEY CENTRAL  
LAND AREA - RELEASE TO UNRESTRICTED USE (TAC NO. L31229)

BACKGROUND

In an application dated July 29, 1999, GA requested their license be amended to remove authorized activities at the Sorrento Valley Central Land Area from the license, and to release this area for unrestricted use. This area is generally a parking lot and is associated with a previously decommissioned facility, the Sorrento Valley A (SVA) Fuel Manufacturing Facility, that was used to conduct licensed activities. The north half of the parking lot had been used for the temporary storage of radioactive waste boxes from the SVA Decommissioning Project. These radioactive waste boxes had been properly packaged and sealed and the exteriors surveyed for removable contamination before being stored in this area. The licensee conducted a survey of the Sorrento Valley Central Land Area and provided the results of that survey along with their submittal. The licensee used the same methodology as used during decontamination and decommissioning of the other facilities previously released at the site.

DISCUSSION

GA completed the survey of the Sorrento Valley Central Land Area and submitted a final report entitled, "Final Radiological Survey Performed at General Atomics' Sorrento Valley Central Land Area," dated July 28, 1999. The survey methodology and decontamination procedures and techniques were the same rigorous procedures as used in the Building 2 laboratories, Building 30, Phases I and II, and other buildings and areas which have been previously released. NRC Region IV inspectors conducted in-process inspections and verified the licensee's survey results.

The licensee's survey data showed that there was no residual radioactivity in the Sorrento Valley Central Land Area and all readings were well below the criteria established in "Guidelines for Decontamination of Facilities and Equipment Prior to Release for Unrestricted Use or Termination of Licenses for Byproduct, Source or Special Nuclear Material," dated April 1993, as incorporated in GA Materials License SNM-696. Final contamination and radiation surveys, as well as sample results provided in the final survey reports for this area, demonstrate that the Sorrento Valley Central Land Area meets the approved criteria for release to unrestricted use.

Inspectors from Region IV performed ongoing evaluations of the licensee's methodology and performed confirmatory surveys which are documented in Inspection Report 70-734/99-01.

The Region IV inspectors determined the following:

"The licensee's report, "Final Radiological Survey Performed at General Atomics' Sorrento Valley Central Land Area," dated July 28, 1999, was reviewed and found acceptable. The inspectors performed a confirmatory survey of the land area. The survey consisted of alpha, beta and gamma measurements over several portions of the land area. No soil samples were taken. The beta readings ranged from 0-216 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup> above background. The alpha readings ranged from 0 to 4 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup> above background. The gamma readings at 1 meter ranged from 0-2  $\mu$ R/hr above background. The results were consistent with the licensee's measurements which demonstrated that the area met the criteria for unrestricted release."

### ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Based on the information submitted by GA, the staff has determined that the changes to the license are related to decreased operations at the facility resulting from the proposed overall decommissioning of the site. Accordingly, the staff has determined that the criteria in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(11) for categorically excluding an action from an environmental review have been met. Therefore, neither an Environmental Assessment nor Environmental Impact Statement is necessary for this action.

### CONCLUSION

The staff concludes that GA's request to reduce licensed activities meets regulatory requirements and that there is reasonable assurance that the proposed action will not adversely impact upon the health and safety of the public or the environment.

The Region IV Principal Inspector has no objection to this proposed action.

Principal Contributor  
Charles E. Gaskin

*C. E. Meigh*  
12/16/99

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**SUBJECT:   SORRENTO VALLEY CENTRAL LAND AREA - RELEASE TO UNRESTRICTED  
          USE (TAC NO. L31229)**

Dear Dr. Asmussen:

In accordance with your application dated July 29, 1999, and pursuant to Part 70 to Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Materials License SNM-696 is hereby amended to release the Sorrento Valley Central Land Area to unrestricted use and to delete references to this area from the license. Your application was supported with a report entitled, "Final Radiological Survey Performed at General Atomics' Sorrento Valley Central Land Area", dated July 28, 1999. Our review has determined that there is reasonable assurance that the release of this area for unrestricted use will not adversely affect public health and safety or the environment.

Accordingly, Safety License Condition S-1 has been revised to include the date of July 29, 1999, (Sorrento Valley Central Land Area).

If, in the future, you desire to use licensed materials and conduct licensed activities in these facilities you must request and obtain an amendment to your license.

All other conditions of this license shall remain the same.

Enclosed are copies of the Materials License SNM-696 and the Safety Evaluation Report, which includes the Categorical Exclusion determination.

Sincerely,

Theodore S. Sherr, Chief  
Licensing and International  
Safeguards Branch  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety  
and Safeguards, NMSS

Docket       70-734  
License       SNM-696  
Amendment   64

Enclosures:   1. Materials License SNM-696  
                  2. Safety Evaluation Report

**DISTRIBUTION:** (Control No. 830S) (TAC L31229 COMPLETED)

Docket 70-734	PUBLIC	NRC File Center	Region IV
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SHO	WBritz, RIV	EBailey, CA	PMDA
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OFC	LIB	LIB	LIB	LIB	LIB
NAME	CGaskin	MAdams	PShea	CEmeigh	TSherr
DATE	12/17/99	12/13/99	12/ /99	12/ /99	12/ /99