



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 16, 2002

Mr. Wayne M. Reiber
Manager, Environmental Assessment and Remediation
Cabot Corporation
157 Concord Rd.
P.O. Box 7001
Billerica, MA 01821-7001

SUBJECT: REPORT OF MEETING WITH CABOT CORPORATION, DISCUSSING
CHARACTERIZATION AND EXPOSURE SCENARIO ISSUES RELATED TO
THE READING FACILITY

Dear Mr. Reiber:

Enclosed is a report of the September 23, 2002, meeting between staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and representatives of Cabot Corporation and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Please contact me at (301) 415-6919 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Purdy for".

Duane Schmidt, Acting Project Manager
Special Projects Section
Decommissioning Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: Meeting Report

Docket No.: 040-09027
License No.: SMC-1562

cc:
Timothy Knapp, Cabot Corporation
Robert Maiers, PADEP
Joseph Eppihimer, Mayor, City of Reading, Pennsylvania

MEETING REPORT

DATE: September 23, 2002

TIME: 1:00 pm

PLACE: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852-2738
Room: O-10B4

PURPOSE: To Discuss Cabot Reading Decommissioning Plan Review and Findings with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and Licensee

ATTENDEES: Refer to Attachment 1

BACKGROUND:

In letters to the NRC dated May 2 and July 10, 2002, staff of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) raised concerns about the NRC staff's draft Safety Evaluation Report and Environmental Assessment for the Cabot-Reading site. These concerns relate to the sufficiency of characterization of the site, particularly the slag pile, and to the exposure scenarios used by the licensee in showing compliance with the license termination criteria. Prior to this current meeting, the licensee and PADEP staff had not discussed these concerns together.

DISCUSSION:

The majority of discussion at the meeting focused on (1) characterization of the slag pile at the Reading site, (2) the dose assessment for the site, and (3) the likely future development of the site.

Cabot Corporation (the licensee) provided an overview of the characterization information that they have found, and how the information appears consistent with the characterization that they provided in the Decommissioning Plan (DP). The licensee indicated that they plan to formally submit to NRC the characterization information, which likely includes some information not previously provided to the NRC staff. The licensee discussed its concerns with certain statements in the draft slag report prepared by NRC (Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)) and Johns Hopkins University staff. Staff from RES provided additional information about the slag report. Staff from PADEP reiterated their concerns regarding the characterization of the slag pile.

The licensee also provided an overview of aspects of the dose assessment for the site. The licensee concluded that the dose assessment provided in the current Radiological Assessment (RA) is realistic for the site conditions and reasonable exposure scenarios. In particular, the licensee indicated that it believes that though the slag pile is stable, the pile is not accommodating to significant development. Staff from PADEP briefly reiterated their concerns regarding the exposure scenarios considered. Representatives of the City of Reading and its redevelopment authority presented information about current plans for redevelopment of the

industrial areas surrounding the Cabot site (see attachments 2–16). These current plans are for the area to be developed as commercial or light industrial property, not as a residential area. The representatives of the City and its redevelopment authority did not express any concerns about the licensee's current plans for leaving the slag materials onsite and terminating the license of the Cabot site.

ACTIONS:

- (1) Submit additional documentation regarding the characterization of the slag pile and exposure scenarios to the NRC. Responsible party: Cabot Corporation. Time frame: expect to submit within about 3 weeks after the meeting, subject to receipt of information in action item 2.
- (2) Provide to the NRC staff, the licensee, and the PADEP staff, a copy of the July 25, 1977, letter from the Maryland Department of the Environment to Applied Health Physics, Inc. Responsible party: NRC staff (RES to provide, NMSS to distribute). Time frame: as soon as feasible.

ATTACHMENTS

1. List of attendees.
2. Letter, dated 04/08/2002, from Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Regarding Infrastructure Development Program, Buttonwood Gateway Project.
3. Letter, dated 04/09/2002, from Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development Regarding Industrial Sites Reuse Program.
4. Letter, dated 04/06/2002, from Reading Redevelopment Authority Regarding Industrial Sites Reuse Program.
5. City of Reading Resolution 128-2002, Regarding Selection of Developer for Buttonwood Gateway Redevelopment Area.
6. Reading, Pennsylvania, Official Zoning Map, dated 05/31/1995.
7. City of Reading Zoning Ordinance, dated June 2001.
8. Redevelopment Proposal for Buttonwood Gateway Redevelopment Area, dated August 1998.
9. Minutes of Reading Planning Commission Meeting of 08/11/1998.
10. Reading Redevelopment Authority Resolution 16-98.
11. City of Reading, Pennsylvania, Resolution No. 31-98.
12. City of Reading, Pennsylvania, Resolution No. 41-98.
13. City of Reading, Pennsylvania, Resolution No. 42-98.
14. City of Reading, Pennsylvania, Resolution No. 125-98.
15. City of Reading, Pennsylvania, Comprehensive Plan, 2000.
16. American Chain and Cable Site, Property Plan. dated 07/31/2002.