

Case No: 2001-0109
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Action Off: Root
Related Case:

January 10, 2001

Howard Marget

FOIA/Privacy Act Officer
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop T-6 D8
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Sir/Madam:

The following is a Freedom of Information Act Request (FOIA) for any documents that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has regarding the following government sub-contractors;

- 1.) NRC Equipment Company – Newton, MA
- 2.) National Research Corporation – Cambridge, MA

that were involved in the U. S. Nuclear Weapons program during the 1940's and 1950's.

I am making this request as a private citizen and resident of Newton, Massachusetts because I am concerned about the possible environmental impacts of a potential U. S. Nuclear Weapons program sub-contractor in Newton, MA. I believe it is in the public interest to know for certain what hazardous/radioactive work these sub-contractors might have actually performed. According to the "FUSRAP" document released on September 21, 2000, (<http://www.em.doe.gov/sitelist/index.html>) National Research Corporation and NRC Equipment Company are both listed in it. I am making this request to the NRC because according to the "FUSRAP" document, the status of these sites is that they are both licensed by the NRC.

My knowledge of these sub-contractors is as follows:

- 1.) NRC Equipment Company - Newton, MA
(Division of National Research Corporation)
Documents indicate that this firm was tentatively scheduled to perform electron beam welding on centrifugally cast uranium tubes for National Lead of Ohio (NLO). Firm may have also done melting of chips, scrap, slugs, etc. However, confirmation that this work was actually done has not been found.

National Lead of Ohio was the prime contractor for the Feed Materials Production Center (FMPC) located near Fernald, Ohio.

2.) National Research Corporation – Cambridge, MA

Firm has performed processing with Beryllium under sub-contract to the Beryllium Corporation (of America). Also developed vacuum processes and designed/developed special furnaces for the Savannah River and Oak Ridge facilities.

I began learning of the possible existence of hazardous/radioactive waste in my hometown in September, 2000 when USA TODAY published its "Poisoned People and Places" special report. The report contained a list of possible Nuclear Weapons sub-contractors, of which NRC Equipment Company was on the list. I soon after contacted local government officials in Newton, MA and they knew nothing of this. The City of Newton Public Health commissioner contacted the successor to National Research Corporation/NRC Equipment Company, H. C. Starck Corporation (H. C. Starck). H. C. Starck denied that these specific activities took place. H. C. Starck acknowledged other activities these companies were involved in with the U. S. Nuclear Weapons program that were not of a hazardous nature or involved very minor amounts of radioactive materials.

I then contacted the "Poisoned People and Places" reporter at USA TODAY, Peter Eisler, and he provided me with his evidence regarding NRC Equipment Company in Newton, MA. However, his evidence is not conclusive as no documents have been located to-date confirming NRC Equipment Company's work in the U. S. Nuclear Weapons program.

I have searched through the various DOE web-sites (OSTI, HRE, Oak Ridge) containing documents relating to the U. S. Nuclear Weapons program and have found some documents relating to National Research Corporation, but none related to NRC Equipment Company. I was also able to obtain one document from the National Archives on National Research Corporation relating to its processing of Beryllium. I have also looked at the "FUSRAP" (<http://www.em.doe.gov/sitelist/index.html>) document and National Research Corporation and NRC Equipment Company are both listed in it.

I am hopeful that the NRC has some documents that will conclusively show whether the NRC Equipment Company did/did not perform work for the U. S. Nuclear Weapons program as well as the current status of the Newton site relating to radioactive/hazardous materials contamination. I am hopeful that any findings by the NRC can be used so that this issue can either be put to rest or a determination made as to what the next step will need to be. As NRC Equipment Company was a division of National Research Corporation, I feel it is important to request any documents for the National Research Corporation as well.

Attached are the following documents:

- 1.) DOE memo obtained from Peter Eisler at USA TODAY regarding sub-contractors of NLO and implicates NRC Equipment Company as a possible sub-contractor to NLO (See last page).
- 2.) Atomic Energy Commission document alluding to National Research Corporation performing work with Beryllium. Obtained from the National Archives, Southeast region.
- 3.) Progress reports from National Research Corporation regarding the reduction of contamination in production of metallic compounds. Obtained from the DOE Oak Ridge Operations Public Reading Room.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Howard Marget". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Howard Marget