



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET SW SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931**

June 25, 2002

Department of the Army
ATTN: Brigadier General Patricia L. Nilo
Commandant
U.S. Army Chemical School
Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri 65473-8926

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 01-02861-05/02-03

Dear General Nilo:

On June 4, 2002, the NRC completed an inspection at Fort McClellan, Alabama. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether decommissioning activities authorized by the license were conducted safely and in accordance with Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requirements. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with members of your staff identified in the enclosed report. The enclosed report presents the results of the inspection.

The inspection was an examination of activities conducted under your license as they relate to radiation safety and compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations and with the conditions of your license. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of representative records and discussion interviews with personnel.

We would also like to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 31, 2002, in which you informed us that site visits to the burial mound remediation site at Pelham Range were being discontinued. Please be advised that if remediation or survey work is started again at this site we would expect you to provide oversight as it applies to your radiation safety responsibilities.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically for public inspection in NRC's Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/ADAMS.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Should you have any questions concerning this letter or report, please contact us.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Thomas R. Decker, Chief
Materials Licensing/Inspection Branch1

Docket No. 030-17584
License No. 01-02861-05

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report
No. 01-02861-05/02-03

cc w/encl:
Rick Button
Environmental Protection Agency
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, GA 30303

James T. Williams
Division of Radiation Control
State of Alabama
Department of Public Health
201 Monroe Street, Suite 700
Montgomery, AL 36104

Lisa Holstein
Environmental Office
Bldg. 215, 15th Street
Fort McClellan, AL 36205-5000

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NAME	OMBailey	BAParker					
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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II

Docket No.: 030-17584

License No.: 01-02861-05

Report No.: 01-02861-05/02-03

Licensee: Department of the Army

Location: Fort McClellan, Alabama

Date: June 4, 2002

Inspectors: Orysia Masnyk Bailey, Health Physicist
Bryan A. Parker, Health Physicist

Approved by: Thomas R. Decker, Chief
Materials Licensing and Inspection Branch 1
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Enclosure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT MCCLELLAN, ALABAMA
NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 01-02861-05/02-03

The purpose of this inspection was to review the licensee's progress in evaluating the results of an aerial survey of Fort McClellan including the radiological use areas at the Pelham Range and Iron Mountain/Rattlesnake Gulch sites.

The licensee identified several areas that may require further investigation. Cognizant licensee contractors stated that they felt that these areas were anomalies or artifacts of the survey method. However, to be conservative and to lend weight to this theory, the licensee decided they would investigate these areas by sampling or by in situ gamma spectroscopy.

Attachment:

List of Persons Contacted
Inspection Procedures Used

REPORT DETAILS

1. Scope

This inspection was conducted to determine whether decommissioning activities authorized by the license were conducted safely and in accordance with Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requirements and the licensee's approved Decommissioning Plan. Specifically, the inspection was conducted to review the licensee's progress in evaluating the results of an aerial survey of Fort McClellan, including the radiological use areas at the Pelham Range and Iron Mountain/Rattlesnake Gulch sites.

2. Observations and Findings

The licensee has completed its remediation and final surveys of former use areas and burial mounds at the Pelham Range and in the Iron Mountain /Rattlesnake Gulch area. The Iron Mountain/Rattlesnake Gulch areas have been addressed in previous inspection reports. The licensee is in the process of producing the final report concerning the Pelham Range burial mound.

The licensee contracted Fugro Airborne Surveys to perform an aerial survey, and Shaw E&I, Inc. (formerly the IT Corporation) to perform other surveys as needed, to provide assurance that all radiological material use areas at Fort McClellan had been addressed.

Based on discussion with Fugro and Shaw contractors, the inspectors determined that the aerial survey was complete and that the licensee had "mapped out" the remaining area requiring a survey. The flyover was conducted at the same time as the burial mound remediation and a portion of the range surrounding the mound could not be surveyed by air.

The flyover data was depicted by the use of color coded maps. Suspect areas were marked yellow. There were several of these areas on the maps that the contractor felt were not areas of elevated activity but were anomalies or artifacts of the survey process. The licensee stated that they would investigate these areas by sampling or by in situ gamma spectroscopy, to ensure that they were not areas of radiological concern. They advised that they would inform the NRC before any additional surveys were performed or work was done at the range so that in-process inspection by the NRC could be accomplished. The licensee will submit a final report which will include the flyover results and the results of these additional investigations. The inspectors advised the licensee that the data from the flyover should be evaluated fully to ensure that no other spots required further investigation.

2. Conclusion

The licensee was in compliance with its approved decommissioning plan and regulatory requirements. No violations were identified.

EXIT MEETING SUMMARY

The inspector discussed the inspection results with the personnel indicated below in the list of persons contacted, at the end of the inspection on June 4, 2002. The licensee agreed to keep the NRC apprised of planned work activities in a timely fashion.

ATTACHMENT

LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

State of Alabama, Division of Radiation Control:

Kirksey E. Whatley, Director
James T. Williams, Radiation Physicist

Department of the Army, Fort McClellan, Alabama:

Lisa Holstein, Base Relocation and Closure Coordinator (BRAC)
Lee Jaye, Environmental Engineer, BRAC
John May, Radiation Safety Officer

Fugro Airborne Surveys:

Doug McConnell, Geophysicist

Shaw E&I, Inc:

Rick Green, Health Physicist
Steve Moran, Project Manager
Sandra Takata, Geophysicist

Environmental Protection Agency:

Rick Button, Health Physicist

INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED

IP 83890	Closeout Inspection and Summary
IP 87104	Decommissioning Inspection Procedure for Materials Licenses