



May 6, 2005

AD-9027

Theodore Smith
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington DC, 20555-0001

Subject: Cabot Reading Site, Reading, Pennsylvania (License No: SMC-1562)

Dear Mr. Smith:

Enclosed please find 3 copies of revision two of the Decommissioning Plan (DP) and Radiological Assessment (RA) for Cabot Corporation's Reading, Pennsylvania Site. The DP/RA incorporates a rip-rap cover that Cabot proposes to install at the site as a means to avoid the necessity of complex analyses to answer the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) outstanding request for additional information and allow the NRC to approve the DP expeditiously. This approach was discussed in Cabot's February 3, 2004 letter to NRC. NRC accepted Cabot's conceptual approach, subject to a complete evaluation of the DP/RA, in a letter dated August 3, 2004.

The DP/RA demonstrate that the potential exposure levels for any reasonable scenario involving unrestricted use of the site are all well below the 25 mrem/year criteria for unrestricted release, and that a release without restrictions meets NRC's ALARA (as low as reasonably achievable) requirements.

Cabot believes the rip-rap cover is not necessary to meet NRC's criteria for unrestricted release. However, the rip-rap cover provides additional assurance of long-term stability, eliminates any uncertainty regarding the potential for erosion, and provides an additional basis for concluding that the questions that have been raised regarding uncertainty in the characterization effort do not affect the potential dose to the public, thus resolving any and all outstanding issues at the Reading Site as posed by NRC in its March 21, 2003 letter. Accordingly, the installation of the proposed rip-rap cover, which represents a significant cost to Cabot, should expedite the decommissioning process and result in the termination of Cabot NRC license.

Please call me at 617-342-6023 if you have any questions on this submission.

Sincerely,

Wayne M. Reiber
Manager, Environmental Assessment and Remediation

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