



Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Rachel Carson State Office Building

P.O. Box 8469

Harrisburg, PA 17105-8469

June 16, 2005

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REGION 1

Bureau of Radiation Protection

Mr. Jim Kottan
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Re: Quehanna Decommissioning Project; License Number 37-17860-02

03029288

Dear Mr. Kottan:

On February 10, 2005, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) submitted to you the Quehanna Decommissioning Project Final Status Survey Report (FSSR). The intent of the FSSR submission was to document that the radiological conditions at the site met the requirements for license termination. On May 3, 2005, NRC confirmatory contractor, Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education/Environmental Survey and Site Assessment Program (ORISE), mobilized on the site to confirm the results of the FSSR. ORISE identified many locations that failed to meet the release criteria in a relatively short time and, as a result, suspended the confirmatory inspection prior to completion. The results of the partial confirmatory survey were documented in a letter to you dated May 24, 2005, from Mr. Wade Adams of ORISE. Our decommissioning contractor, Sciencetech, has been performing surveys since the discovery of contamination by ORISE. Sciencetech has identified and remediated numerous locations of contamination that exceeded our release criteria, including those found by ORISE. Sciencetech's recent efforts have provided a couple of hypotheses as to the origins of this contamination, but they have requested more time to evaluate the situation.

It has been and continues to be PADEP's goal to obtain unrestricted license termination at the Quehanna Facility. However, at this time we are withdrawing our request to the NRC for license termination because conditions at the site do not meet our license requirements for unrestricted release. We currently do not have sufficient information to present to the NRC. As a result, we require more time to fully access the conditions that led to the apparent recontamination of the facility and to develop a plan to complete the license termination process. We will be requesting a meeting with NRC to present our plan as soon as practical after it has been completed. Please feel free to call Bryan Werner of my staff at (717) 787-2781 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

David J. Allard, CHP
Director
Bureau of Radiation Protection

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