



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
755 ROOSEVELT ROAD
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137

MAY 01 1992

U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency (EPA)
Region VII
ATTN: Mr. Arthur Spratlin
Director, Air and Toxic Division
726 Minnesota
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

CC TBAF
W STAI
CIGL
ENSL
WATR
CNSL
ARRE
J. Young
D Roberts

108-740-5500
Done

SUBJECT: ALLEGATION RE: RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATED FACILITY UNDOCKETED/UNLICENSED,
(AMS NO. RI11-92-A-0022)

Dear Mr. Spratlin:

On February 20 and March 11, 1992, we received several allegations regarding contamination in and around the environment from a facility known as Schuylkill Metals Corporation, Cannon Hollow Branch, P.O. Box 38, Highway 111, Forrest City, Missouri. On March 16, 1992, Mr. D. G. Wiedeman of my staff discussed this issue with you and Mr. Robert Dye of your staff. Based upon that discussion it is our understanding that EPA has ongoing investigations into similar allegations associated with this facility and that this site may be considered to become an EPA Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) site. Based upon the fact that the EPA has ongoing investigations into this matter and Schuylkill Metals Corporation does not possess an NRC license, we are sending you a summary and some background information regarding these allegations for whatever followup action you feel appropriate.

1. The allegeders represent a 15 member organization called Cannon Hollow Environmental Coalition which is made up of local residents.
2. Schuylkill Metals Corp. is a company that re-cycles battery lead and they also purchase scrap lead for processing and sales to other manufacturers.
3. The allegeders claim that Schuylkill Metals have a history of regulatory problems with U. S. EPA, State Department of Health and Missouri Department of Natural Resources. They also claim that Schuylkill owns a site in Florida that is currently on the EPA Superfund list because of groundwater chemical contamination.
4. The allegeders claim that the local Deputy Sheriff, (Kenneth Gordon, phone number ((816) 442-5533), has a list of names of people that can support their allegations. Several of these individuals are former employees, Bobby Christian, Maitland, Missouri phone number unknown, and another, Don Goltz, Mound City, Missouri, phone number unknown. The allegeders claim that several years ago Goltz found a vial labeled "radioactive" in a lead container. When this matter was brought to the attention of the Plant Manager, Sam Pearson, a check was made with a geiger counter; however, the radiation levels were never discussed with the individuals involved. The allegeders were not sure if these individuals ever asked for the survey results.

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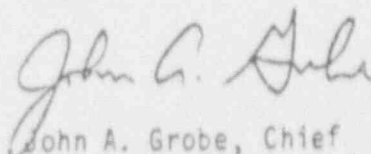
5. The alleged claim that groundwater in the area is contaminated and had copies of water monitoring data from Schuylkill dated March 28, 1984 taken from well No. OW10 and OW12 (which have now been capped). They were concerned that no one was investigating the cause of the "high radiation" levels found in the water. The monitoring results relayed to us were the following:

gross alpha 30 \pm 15 pCi/liter
gross beta 24 \pm 17 pCi/liter
gross beta 27 \pm 15 pCi/liter
gross beta 56 \pm 40 pCi/liter

6. The alleged also provided two additional allegations and requested an independent review. These are: (1) when regulatory agencies arrive onsite to take a water sample they are told to return the next day. Then during the night shift they pump the monitoring wells dry then fill them with clean water, and (2) they would like additional water samples taken from the monitoring wells and have them analyzed to ensure that Schuylkill's reported data is accurate. The alleged felt that Schuylkill Metals did not report accurate data to the various regulatory agencies.

If we can provide you with any additional information on this matter please contact Roy J. Caniano or Darrel Wiedeman of my staff at FTS 388-5500.

Sincerely,



John A. Grobe, Chief
Nuclear Materials Safety Branch

cc: D. Funk, RIII