

Docket Files

40-6659

February 23, 1971

G. W. Roy, Chief
Materials and Fuel Facilities Branch
Division of Compliance, HQ

**COMPLIANCE INQUIRY MEMORANDUM - PETROTOMICS
COMPANY, CASPER, WYOMING - LICENSE NO. SUA-551 -
10 CFR 20.405 EXCESSIVE CONCENTRATION LEVELS**

On February 16, 1971, Mr. C. E. Wolfe, Mill Superintendent, Petrotomics (Shirley Basin mill), telephoned H. J. Paas to report a break in a secondary tailings dike, which resulted in a loss of approximately 2,000 gallons of tailings liquid to the unrestricted area. The break occurred in the dike of an effluent sump, a secondary retention pond, below the main tailings dam at the Shirley Basin mill during the night of February 15, 1971. It was caused by unusual runoff from melted snow. The break was repaired February 16, with no apparent leakage or seepage subsequent to the original release. The release was into the sand draw, extending about 100 yards downslope on adjoining properties belong to the Getty Oil Company, part-owner of the licensee. This property is not included in the fenced restricted area. Wolfe stated that he was reporting the incident in accordance with the requirement of Condition No. 11 of License No. SUA-551, in addition to that of 20.405 (for which it may not qualify). Wolfe stated that samples were being collected in order to evaluate the hazard, and the perimeter area covered by the release was being delineated. The licensee followed the telephone call with a telegram of February 17, 1971, which stated that samples were being collected at the fence line and just outside of the Getty Oil Company property line. Upon receipt of the licensee's

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~~evaluation of the release~~, Region IV will review it and take appropriate action, with at least an examination of the records during the next inspection. A copy of the licensee's telegram report is attached.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
G. D. BROWN

Glen D. Brown
Senior Radiation Specialist

CO:IV:JJW

Attachment:

TWX, Wolfe to Flora, dtd. 2-17-71