



UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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JAN 23 1963

U. S. Geological Survey  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver 25, Colorado

Attention: The Director

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Gentlemen:

This refers to the inspections conducted on September 7, 1962 at Cape Thompson Alaska, and on October 5, 1962, at Denver, Colorado, of your activities authorized under AEC Byproduct Material License No. 5-1399-3.

It appears that certain of your activities were not conducted in full compliance with the requirements of the AEC's "Standards for Protection Against Radiation," Part 20, and "Licensing of Byproduct Material," Part 30, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, in that:

1. The quantities of strontium 90 and cesium 137 buried at the Cape Thompson, Alaska, site exceeded 1000 times the amounts specified in Appendix C of 10 CFR 20, contrary to 10 CFR 20.304(a), "Disposal by burial in soil."
2. No records were maintained of the byproduct materials disposed of by burial, contrary to 10 CFR 30.41(a), "Records."

Enclosed for you pursuant to the provisions of Section 161 of the Atomic Energy Act, "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of which is enclosed.

Enclosed to this office, with a copy of the receipt of this report, are the following: (1) corrective steps which will be taken; and (2) the date when full compliance will be achieved.

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STATUS VERIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

*[Signature]* JAN 21 1963

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We understand that you plan no further work with byproduct materials at Cape Thompson and intend to abandon the site where the radioisotopes were buried. Since the quantities of strontium 85 and cesium 137 which you buried are greater than those authorized in 18 CFR 20.304(c), you are requested to prepare and send us, with your reply to this letter, a written evaluation of the buried radioactive materials. This should include (a) the quantities, chemical forms and physical forms of radioisotopes buried; (b) a detailed description of the disposal methods including clarification as to whether the radioisotopes were buried in containers or intermixed in soil, and if the latter, information as to the radioisotope concentrations in the soil expressed in units of microcuries per gram of soil; (c) an analysis and evaluation of the environment including topographical, geological, and hydrological characteristics; and (d) the nature and location of potentially affected facilities.

With respect to your use of strontium 85, iodine 131, and cesium 137 at Cape Thompson, your attention is directed to Amendment No. 8 to License No. 5-1309-3 which authorizes you to use "mixed fission products" at Cape Thompson. If you should again decide to use separated fission products at Cape Thompson, you should send us an application requesting that the license be amended to provide for use of such materials at that location.

Yours very truly,

Eber H. Price  
Assistant Director  
Division of Licensing  
and Regulation

W. G. Wilms, Health Physicist  
U. S. Geological Survey

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February 20, 1963

SUBJECT: U. S. Geological Survey  
Denver, Colorado

Ernest Campbell of the AEC's San Francisco Operations Office, Special Projects Division, called me today to ascertain whether we have as yet received a reply to our notice dated January 23, 1963 to the U. S. Geological Survey, Denver, Colorado. I informed Mr. Campbell that we had not as yet received a reply; however, it was our understanding that a reply was immediately forthcoming, since we had been contacted by an employee of U. S. Geological Survey who is assigned to the AEC's Division of Reactor Development regarding our notice of violation.

I told Mr. Campbell that as soon as the reply was received and had been evaluated we would send him copies, together with a copy of our letter to the licensee, closing out the case. I explained that I anticipated that no further follow-up on our part would be required. However, should a follow-up be indicated after reading the reply to our notice, this would be required before we could close out the case.

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