

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
5010-104
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Ray C. Emens, Director, Support Division
Nevada Operations Office

FROM : *Orin D. Campbell for*
John F. Philip, Director, Special Projects
Division, San Francisco Operations Office

DATE: APR 10 1963

SUBJECT: RADIOACTIVE WASTE MOUND AT PROJECT CHARIOT SITE

SP:EDC

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

References: a. Memo - Philip, SAN to Miller, NV; subject: USGS
Tracer Experiment at Chariot Site; dated 8/10/62
(copies to Emens, Roehlke and others)

b. Letter - Philip to Distribution; subject: USGS
Tracer Experiment at Chariot Site; dated 8/16/62
(copies to Emens, Roehlke, Miller, USGS and others)

You will recall that during August of last year, we cooperated with the U. S. Geological Survey by providing camp support and assistance for a hydrologic experiment at the Chariot site using radioactive tracers. Administrative details concerning the experiment were provided in reference a. Additional details were given in reference b which also noted that since the USGS would be performing the experiment under terms of an AEC Byproduct Material License, a representative from Region V of the Division of Compliance would visit the Project site to inspect the USGS operations.

Following the inspection, it was the opinion of Region V Compliance that, "...no problems involving health or safety existed during the experiment or presently exist at the Project Chariot site. While items of noncompliance were observed during the inspection, these were all of a technical nature, not affecting health and safety." This advice was stated in Enclosure 1, which goes on to say: "There is one condition existing at the site which you may wish to review at some later date. Burial of the radioactive material was accomplished by transporting the contaminated earth to a burial location and mounding clean earth over the contaminated material. Conventional burial was prevented by the presence of frost near the ground surface. Because of this fact, the Division of Compliance did not recommend an item of noncompliance in this regard. However, the Enforcement Branch still may choose to make a citation on this point, since this method is not in strict agreement with 10 CFR 20 requirements."

9302170357 921022
PDR FOIA
BOURKE92-473 PDR

STATUS VERIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

John H. Campbell
John H. Campbell

APR 21 1963

Date

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

APR 10 1963

"Contrary to my earlier belief, I find that the contaminated earth was not enclosed in steel drums at the time of burial, but was merely piled on the ground and a mound of earth formed over it. This would make recovery of the radioactivity very difficult. I believe, however, that should the Commission ever abandon the site, an evaluation of the situation should be made. At that time the decision should be reached whether to attempt recovery of the remaining radioactive material prior to abandonment of the site."

In December, during planning for disposal of the Chariot camp facilities, this radioactive waste mound was discussed by Ernie Campbell with Wayne Hiatt and Rudy Jezik of the NV office and it was decided to determine the attitude of the Division of Licensing and Regulation in this matter. Campbell agreed to do this during a forthcoming trip to Headquarters. This was done on January 8. Campbell informed DL&R of the impending close of the Chariot camp and therefore if any corrective measures were considered necessary in regard to the waste mound, these would have to be undertaken soon, before departure of the Chariot camp personnel. It was DL&R's tentative opinion that no remedial action would be necessary. Therefore, Campbell informed DL&R the Chariot Roll-up plan would include no provision for such work. This was confirmed in writing (See Enclosure 2).

In order to more fully consider the problem, DL&R requested a "hazards evaluation" from the USGS (see Enclosure 3), which was provided in due time (see Enclosure 4).

Receipt of this "hazards evaluation" was acknowledged by DL&R (see Enclosure 5). However, we were uncertain whether this acknowledgement could be construed to release us from any further concern regarding the waste mound and a query was sent to DL&R (see Enclosure 6). DL&R replied, "We believe no further action is warranted" (see Enclosure 7).

In summary, we (at last) feel satisfied the radioactive waste mound at the Chariot site does not represent a health and safety problem and, insofar as SAN is concerned, it can be abandoned. The enclosures to this memorandum contain additional details. We hope our cursuance of this matter has been adequate and helpful to you. Please advise us if you require immediate review in NV, you feel that any further consideration should be given this matter, or if we may be of any further

CC: Otto Roehlk, NV, w/encl.

Enclosures:

1. Memo - Book, Compliance Region V, to Campbell, SAN; dtd 11/2/62
2. Memo - Campbell, SAN to Page, DL&R, HQ; dtd 1/10/63; (w/encl:
ltr, Schank, SAN to Holdsworth, Alaska State Capital; dtd 8/17/62)
3. Letter - Price, DL&R, HQ to USGS, Denver; dtd 1/23/63
4. Letter - Baker, USGS, Washington to Price, DL&R; dtd 2/28/63
5. Letter - Page, DL&R to Baker, USGS; dtd 3/7/63
6. TTX - Campbell, SAN to Page, DL&R; dtd 3/21/63
7. TTX - Page, DL&R to Campbell, SAN; dtd 3/22/63

U
N
C
L
A
S
S
I
F
I
E
D