

October 2, 1996

Docket No.: 040-08980

License No.: SMB-1541

Anthony J. Thompson, Esquire  
Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge  
2300 N Street NW  
Washington, DC 20037-1128

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION NO. 040-08980/96-001

Dear Mr. Thompson:

On September 19, 1996, Marie Miller of this office conducted a safety inspection at the Heritage Minerals, Inc., site, at Lakehurst, New Jersey, of activities authorized by the NRC license listed above. The inspection included a discussion with licensee representatives regarding the status of onsite activities and independent measurements of the monazite sand pile, approximately 695 cubic yards of licensed material.

The inspector reviewed the monthly radiation surveys conducted by the licensee's radiation safety officer from August 1995 through September 1996, and confirmed the adequacy of these measurements using a Ludlum Model 19 microR meter (Serial No. 033512, calibrated March 14, 1996). The inspector observed that the monazite sand was covered with a black filter cloth inside a locked stockade-type fence. "Radiation Area" signs were posted on all four sides, including the entrance to the monazite pile. The licensee stated that there had been no licensed activities or shipment of licensed material, other than possession of the material. The inspector did not identify any changes to the facility, since the last inspection conducted in August 1995. With respect to future decommissioning activities, the inspector stated that a meeting to discuss Heritage's remediation schedule would be held at the site on October 10, 1996. The findings of the inspection were discussed with Mr. Lord and Drs. Ardrian Albrethsen and Max El Tawil at the conclusion of the inspection.

Within the scope of this inspection, no violations were identified.

The licensee representative also related that the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection had given verbal approval of the Heritage Minerals, Inc., Mill Tailings Remediation Action Plan. This plan requires a characterization survey of approximately 600,000 cubic yards of material from formal disposal areas and will be used to determine a site specific remediation method. The radiological portion of the characterization will not extend to the NRC licensed material, but will include onsite groundwater sampling. The inspector requested a copy of the characterization report when completed.

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In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter will be placed in the Public Document Room. No reply to this letter is required.

Your cooperation with us is appreciated. I look forward to our meeting at the Heritage site on October 10, 1996 at 10:00 a.m.

Sincerely,  
Original Signed By:  
Ronald R. Bellamy

Ronald R. Bellamy, Chief  
Decommissioning & Laboratory Branch  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No.: 040-08930  
License No.: SMB-1541

cc:  
John Lord  
Heritage Minerals, Inc.  
One Hovchild Plaza  
4000 Route 66  
Tinton Falls, NJ 07753

State of New Jersey

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