

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III

Docket No. 040-00861

License Nos. C-3496 (Terminated)
27229 (Terminated)
34-001947-01 (Terminated)

Licensee: Horizons, Incorporated (Former)

Facility: Lamotite Corporation
Facility now occupied by
Cleveland Laminating Corporation

Location: 2909 East 79th St
Cleveland, Ohio

Dates: October 3, 1996

Inspector: J. E. House Senior Radiation Specialist

Approved By: J. W. McCormick-Barger, Chief
Decommissioning Branch

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Horizons Corporation

NRC Inspection Report No. 040-00861/96001(DNMS)

This was a routine inspection to review the status and ownership of the former Horizons facility which is currently owned by the parent company of Lamotite Corporation. A new company (not related to Lamotite), Cleveland Laminating Corporation, now occupies the site. The inspector discussed the site history with the Operations Manager of the new company, conducted a physical inspection of the site, and performed a limited radiological survey of the site including areas of known contamination. Areas in Building C that were roped off were surveyed along with adjacent areas that were not identified as being contaminated. No contamination was found outside of the posted areas. Areas in Building B that were surveyed and found to be contaminated corresponded with contaminated areas identified in the previous inspection. Building B was maintained in a locked condition. Since the contamination in Buildings B and C were either roped off or in locked areas, it did not appear to present an immediate health or safety risk for the CLC employees. No violations of NRC regulations were identified.

DETAILS

1. Person Contacted

F. Bitting, Cleveland Laminating Corporation

2. Background

License No. C-3496 was issued to Horizons, Inc. on April 30, 1957, based upon their application dated February 20, 1956, for use and possession of up to 100 lbs. of uranium and 10,000 lbs. of thorium at their facility located at 2909 East 79th Street, Cleveland, Ohio. The authorized activities included refining source material for anyone licensed by the AEC and to recover uranium and thorium by way of an electrolytic process. This license expired on May 31, 1959. AEC Byproduct Material License No. 27229 was in effect in 1955 and authorized 20 millicuries {740 MBq} of silver-110 (Ag-110). This license was terminated (superseded) when License No. 34-1947-01 was issued on February 1, 1957. This material was used for determining the coefficient of surface diffusion of metals under various government contracts. In a letter from the licensee dated November 4, 1958, the licensee stated that all materials on hand were shipped back to Oak Ridge National Laboratories on October 31, 1958, and on December 9, 1958, the byproduct material license was terminated. The AEC docket files did not contain a close-out radiation survey by the licensee or confirmatory radiological survey by the AEC for either license.

3. Facility Description

During the 1940's to the late 1950's, two buildings at the Horizons, Inc. facility were used for the production of granular thorium and uranium metal. The feed material was thorium and/or uranium and was processed through several steps and ultimately converted to thorium/uranium metal by way of an electrolytic process. Two of the three original buildings (Buildings B and C) were used for work with radioactive materials. Building C was originally used for receiving and processing radioactive materials. Building B was used for bulk storage and final processing of the radioactive materials. Details of the site history are contained in Inspection Report 99990003/93015(DRSS).

4. Current Status

On March 11, 1996, Lamotite sold its business interests, including manufacturing equipment and its product line, to the Cleveland Laminating Corporation (CLC), a new company which did not appear to be related to Lamotite. This sale did not include the property, which CLC leases from Rexam, the parent company of Lamotite. The Operations Manager for CLC stated that he was aware that low levels of radioactive

contamination existed at the site. The CLC representative indicated that there had been no contact between CLC and Horizons Inc., the original licensee, or with the remediation contractor concerning site remediation.

Document reviews indicated that funding for the site cleanup will be provided by the Department of Energy (DOE), and contractual negotiations are in progress between Horizons Inc. and DOE. A contract had been issued to a remediation contractor; however, it appeared that no work has been done, as the site Characterization/Remediation/Final Survey Plan had not been submitted to the NRC.

The inspector toured and performed limited radiological surveys of Buildings B and C. Radiological contamination had been identified in both buildings (Section 3) during a previous inspection (Inspection Report 99990003/93015). Contaminated areas in Building C were roped off and posted. Random surveys of these areas indicated that activity levels were approximately 1200 disintegrations per minute (dpm) beta/gamma in some areas, and limited surveys in adjacent areas that were not roped off did not identify any activity. Building B, the metal building, was locked and the Operations Manager stated that no one from CLC had been in it. No contamination was found at the entrance (outside or inside), however activity was found in the drains and on the concrete floor as was noted in the previous inspection. Building B contained a considerable amount of old equipment which will require surveys before it can be released. The inspector noted that there was deteriorated insulation in Building B which could be asbestos. This material will require analysis by the remediation contractor before remediation begins.

5. Exit Meeting

The NRC inspector met with the individual identified in Section 1 of this report and summarized the findings of the inspection. The inspector informed the current occupant that the activity observed in Building C did not represent a significant immediate health or safety hazard. The NRC inspector emphasized that this survey was limited in scope and that a characterization survey would presumably be performed by the Horizons Inc. contractor prior to remediation.