

PETROTOMICS COMPANY

P. O. DRAWER 2450

September 8, 1964

Mr. Donald L. Walker
Director, Division of Compliance
U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
P. O. Box 15266
Denver, Colorado - 80215

Dear Mr. Walker:

In regard to your letter received August 31, 1964, notifying Petrotomics Company of four indicated violations of the Atomic Energy Commission's "Standards for Protection Against Radiation", Part 20, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, we will take each violation in the order you listed and give first the corrective steps which have been taken; second, the corrective steps that will be taken; and three, the date when full compliance will be achieved in each case.

ITEM A

Concentrations of thorium-230 in tailings effluents to unrestricted areas.

Seepage of effluent from the tailings pond appears to have its source in an unidentified sand layer that outcrops within the tailings impoundment area. We are continuing our program of distributing tailings over the entire area, endeavoring to effectively seal the sand aquifer at its source with the slime component of the tailings.

While this seepage is released to an unrestricted area, it disappears within one-half mile and does not enter any continually flowing stream. We are putting lime rock in the channel below the tailings dam so the resultant neutralization will precipitate the thorium-230.

We hope to effect this sealing of the tailings seepage area within the next few months.

ITEM B-1

Failure to fully evaluate exposure of crusher operator and helper by breathing zone samples.

8507300207 850530
PDR FOIA
BURR85-229 PDR

5-3110

Mr. Donald Walker
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Denver, Colorado

- Page 2 -

Sept. 8, 1964

Because of the low level exposures established by general area survey samples which have been made not only during normal operation of the crusher but also during clean-up periods, it was deemed unnecessary to take breathing zone samples. Since the general area air samples are taken in the area normally occupied by the operator and could be closely correlated to the breathing zone samples.

However, we have recently taken breathing zone samples and these results will be correlated against the general area sample results to see if the breathing zone samples show a higher exposure.

ITEM B-2

Failure to take breathing zone samples of maintenance employees doing non-routine modification of yellow cake drier exhaust stack system.

During the period, June 10-12, 1964, when modification was made to the exhaust stack system of the yellow cake drier, the plant was closed down for annual vacations.

The modification work done was not of a nature that generated any substantial dust levels.

In any case when averaged over an exposure time of 40 hours - it is highly problematical that any over-exposure could have occurred.

However, in order to have complete information concerning such activities, in the future we will conduct air sampling during such modification activities.

ITEM C

Failure to make survey of airborne radioactive material released to unrestricted areas within a calendar year.

The annual survey of airborne radioactive material released to unrestricted areas will be made before October 1, 1964.

Mr. Donald Walker
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Denver, Colorado

- Page 3 -

Sept. 8, 1964

It is our desire to be in full compliance with the requirements of our license and the provisions of 10 CFR 20, and we would appreciate any further suggestions you may offer.

Sincerely yours,

PETROTOMICS COMPANY

By John D. Crozier
John D. Crozier
Radiologist

JDC/es

cc: G. K. Coates
E. Kemp
Radiologist (2)
Office (1)

RECEIVED
SEP 10 1964

DIVISION OF COMPLIANCE
REGION IV