

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION I

INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Report No. 040-08843/96-002

Docket No. 040-08843

License No. STB-01451

Licensee: Ronson Metals Corporation  
55 Manufacturer's Place  
Newark, New Jersey 07105

Facility Name: Ronson Metals Corporation

Inspection At: 55 Manufacturer's Place  
Newark, New Jersey

Inspection Conducted: August 14 & 20, 1996 and September 13, 1996

Inspected By: Ronald R. Bellamy  
Ronald R. Bellamy, Chief  
Decommissioning & Laboratory Branch

September 23, 1996  
Date

Inspected By: Steve W. Shaffer  
Steve W. Shaffer,  
Decommissioning & Laboratory Branch

9-23-96  
Date

Approved By: Ronald R. Bellamy  
Ronald R. Bellamy, Chief  
Decommissioning & Laboratory Branch

Sept 23, 1996  
Date

Inspection Summary: Announced inspection of Ronson Metals Corporation  
(RMC) facility (NRC Inspection No. 040-08843/96-002).

Areas Inspected: The licensee's site characterization efforts conducted prior  
to preparation of a site decommissioning plan. The  
characterization efforts inspected included testing of  
removable adhesive and HEPA vacuums, and a magnetic sub-  
surface scan of parking lot 6.

Results: No items of non-compliance were observed.

## DETAILS

### 1.0 Individuals Contacted

\*Edward E. David, Jr., Technical Consultant  
Daryl Holcomb, CFO & Treasurer

\*Jeffrey A. Walder, Counsel  
Dwayne Brown, Brown & Root Environmental  
Dennis Beissel, Brown & Root Environmental  
Various other Brown & Root personnel

\*Denotes presence at exit interview.

### 2.0 Background

RMC received a license on December 28, 1984, authorizing 75 Kg of thorium powder for use in the manufacture of ion-scavengers. On April 9, 1985, the license was amended for storage only. On August 18, 1992, the licensee requested termination of their license.

Surveys and sampling have demonstrated that the site has both thorium and uranium contamination. The site was used in the 1950's for rare earth metal refining which included the use of processed monazite sand.

### 3.0 Facilities

Building 7 is a single story stone structure with a concrete floor. The floor has large depressions, a few holes, and an area that was torn up during previous decommissioning efforts. The building has no interior rooms, fixtures, or duct work remaining. Area F is adjacent to the North wall of the building, it is currently fenced in and over grown with brush.

Building 6 is a single story masonry structure with a concrete floor. Adjacent to the building is a paved area containing two structures. The first is a cinderblock structure that previously housed a tank farm. The roof of this structure is no longer intact. The second structure is a wooden structure roughly the size of a tool shed and may have housed the pumps to the tank farm. The remainder of the paved area contains the cement footer for a single tank and a parking lot.

Buildings 1 through 5 which are the original site structures are masonry buildings. All the buildings are contiguous and the numbers represent the order of the additions built onto building 1. Building 1 has a sub-surface room that contains a storage tank. The room is accessed via a two foot square hole in the floor. A ladder runs from the hole to the floor of the sub-surface room. The size of the room and the limited access to the room appear to make entrance of this room a confined space entry. Buildings 2 & 3 have a sub-floor approximately 3 feet below the current floor of these buildings. Building 2 has a second floor loft which has a uniformly elevated exposure rate of 35 to 40 microrem per hour. The second floor of building 3 is the old office area for the facility.

#### 4.0 Characterization Efforts

The inspector observed the licensee's tests of a removable adhesive and a HEPA vacuum on August 14, 1996. The licensee tested these decontamination methods on the contamination on the floor of building 7 in an attempt to determine if either method would reduce the levels of contamination to acceptable levels. Area air monitoring was performed during the vacuuming of square meter grids. The removable adhesive was sprayed onto the vacuumed grids and allowed to cure overnight. The cured adhesive was peeled up by hand. Surveys were done prior to and after vacuuming, and then again after removal of the adhesive. The licensee is evaluating the results of these tests in order to determine if they shall be used in their decommissioning efforts.

A magnetic sub-surface scan of parking lot 6 was performed on August 20, 1996. A Brown & Root Environmental technician performed the scan of the parking lot. The scan paths were run North to South, the long axis of the parking lot, to take advantage of the better geometry. Interference from a guard rail and perimeter fencing were noticed along the edges of the parking lot. The field results were sent to a laboratory for computer analysis.

#### 5.0 Exit Interview

The results of the inspection were discussed with those individuals indicated in section 1.0 of this report at the end of the inspection.