

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

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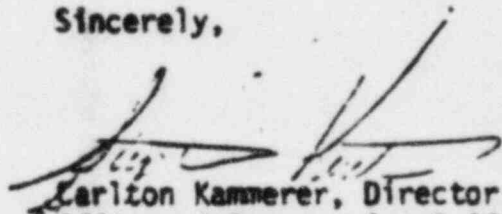
The Honorable Toby Moffett
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Moffett:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter to Mr. H. Hollister Cantus dated May 30, 1978 regarding radiation leading from nuclear reactors.

Your letter will receive our prompt attention and a reply will be forwarded as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Carlton Kammerer, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

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DAWSONVILLE, GEORGIA FACILITY

History and Status

The Dawsonville site consists of 10,000 acres in Dawson County, Georgia. It is near the small town of Dawsonville and is about forty-five miles north-northeast of Atlanta. The site is now a wildlife and forest preserve with only one building remaining from the previous operations which were conducted there.

Beginning about 1959, the site was used by Lockheed Aircraft Corporation who had been contracted by the U.S. Air Force to provide nuclear aircraft design data. The initial facilities included a nuclear test reactor and several buildings, one of which was a hot cell building. In the mid-1960's, the use of the test reactor was discontinued, however, Lockheed Aircraft Corp. continued to use the hot cell facilities and some of the buildings for the manufacture of cobalt-60 sources.

In 1970 the cobalt-60 source production at the Dawsonville site was terminated. In 1971, the AEC terminated the reactor license after the reactor had been dismantled and all parts had been shipped from the site. The State of Georgia, which had become an Agreement State, then issued licenses to Lockheed for the radioactive materials remaining at the site.

Following the removal of most radioactive material from the site, dismantling of all buildings except the hot cell building, and decontamination of the remaining building and the general areas, the State of Georgia terminated the material licenses held by Lockheed in June 1972. The entire site was then purchased by the City of Atlanta.

In 1976, an additional radiation survey was conducted by the State and two areas were identified as having sufficiently high radiation levels to warrant their concern. Most of the radiation and residual radioactive contamination appear to have been produced during operations associated with the manufacture of the cobalt-60 sources. Corrective actions included sealing all outside openings of the hot cell building, installation of fencing around the two areas, and posting of warning signs around the fenced areas.

The corrective actions taken by the State of Georgia appear to be adequate to restrict public access to the two areas of concern and should minimize or prevent unnecessary radiation exposure to the public.

At the request of the State of Georgia, the NRC recently arranged for an aerial survey of the site. The purpose of the aerial survey was to "map" the radiation levels of the entire 10,000 acre site. Within the next few weeks the survey data will have been compiled and plotted. At that time, NRC staff will meet with Georgia officials to review the results and to ensure that the site does not present a hazard to the public.

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