

October 9, 1996

License No. SUB-01339

Docket No. 040-08702

John Manfre
AMCSF-P
U.S. Army Materiel Command
5001 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22333-0001

SUBJECT: FRANKFORD ARSENAL FACILITY AT BRIDGE AND TACONY STREETS,
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Dear Mr. Manfre:

This is in reference to the Frankford Arsenal site at Bridge and Tacony Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. NRC records for this license were reviewed as part of an NRC program to ensure that facilities, where activities authorized by the Atomic Energy Commission or NRC licenses that have been terminated, are suitable for release for unrestricted use in accordance with current NRC guidelines. AEC and NRC licenses normally authorize the use of radioactive materials. As part of this program, our contractor, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), reviewed each terminated license file and scored it according to a system designed to identify facilities which require additional review by the NRC staff. In general, files that indicate that licensed material may have been used at particular facilities, but that do not include adequate final survey records for those facilities, are identified for additional review. The review by ORNL identified License No. SUB-01339 as a file describing a site which required additional review.

The aforementioned review of our records of License No. SUB-01339 included past inspection reports, licensing documentation, correspondence between the Army and the NRC, and two surveys of the site prior to termination of the license on August 19, 1981.

A 1978 survey by Battelle Columbus Laboratory (Battelle) found radiological contamination in a number of buildings, five outdoor areas, and a number of sumps. The following buildings were identified as being radiologically contaminated: 46, 64, 108, 121, 149, 150, 201, 210, 227B, 316, 518, and 521. The five areas of outdoor contamination were outside buildings 120/121, 227B, 149/150, 316 and an area adjacent to the building 521 firing ranges 15 & 16. The survey identified 42 buildings with potentially contaminated sumps which lead to 15 sewer lines which were thus considered to be potentially contaminated.

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After the 1978 survey, Rockwell International (Rockwell) was contracted to perform decontamination and clean up of the facility. Rockwell's surveys found that building 201, previously identified as radiologically contaminated, was free of radiological contamination. The Rockwell remediation efforts included the removal of only three of the 15 potentially contaminated sewer lines. None of the sumps were found to be radiologically contaminated above release criteria.

The review of past NRC licensing and inspection documentation revealed an additional 19 buildings where radioactive material was used. These buildings are 23, 44, 45, 55, 58, 112, 116, 123, 202, 215, 230, 307, 312, 439, 507, 508, 512, 513, and 519. The NRC does not have any records demonstrating that these buildings meet NRC criteria for release for unrestricted use. If you have any records or surveys pertaining to these buildings, please forward copies to the attention of Steve Shaffer in Region I.

In 1995, NRC Region I requested permission from the current property owner, Arsenal Associates, to perform a confirmatory survey of the 12 buildings, five outdoor areas, the sumps, the sewer lines, and a radiological survey of the 19 buildings identified in our recent record search. Arsenal Associates has requested that the survey and any inspection effort be arranged in concert with the Army.

Upon completion of your records review, we would like to arrange a meeting to discuss future actions in verifying that no areas exist at the Frankford Arsenal facility that are contaminated above NRC criteria for release for unrestricted use. The criteria are specified in the enclosed Guidelines for Decontamination of Facilities and Equipment Prior to Release for Unrestricted Use or Termination of Licenses for Byproduct, Source, or Special Nuclear Material.

We plan on contacting you in about one month to discuss the logistics of the meeting. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please call Steve Shaffer at (610) 337-5256 or myself at (610) 337-5200.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
Ronald R. Bellamy

Ronald R. Bellamy, Chief
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

License No. SUB-01339
Docket No. 040-08702

Enclosure:

Guidelines for Decontamination of Facilities and Equipment Prior to Release for Unrestricted Use or Termination of Licenses for Byproduct, Source, or Special Nuclear Material

Frankford Arsenal

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