

September 27, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO: Harold J. Vandermolen, Section Leader
Probabilistic Risk Analysis Branch
Division of Systems Technology, RES

FROM: Lawrence G. Bell, Section Leader [Original signed by]
Facilities Decommissioning Section
Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning
Projects Branch
Division of Waste Management, NMSS

SUBJECT: LEE ABRAMSON'S ASSISTANCE IN LICENSING CASES INVOLVING
STATISTICAL ISSUES

This letter serves to acknowledge Lee Abramson's excellent support to the Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning Projects Branch to help resolve issues involving statistical applications. Lee has been very responsive in answering a variety of questions related to the application of statistics in the assessment of sampling results from decommissioning facilities. However, his primary help over the last year was related to a specific case, the Cimarron Corporation decommissioning site.

In the Cimarron case, the licensee submitted a proposal describing an equation to account for the components of variability in the background concentration of radionuclides in soil samples. Lee reviewed this proposal in a timely fashion and provided comments which were transmitted to the licensee. He developed a model to evaluate the variability in the soil samples and discussed this model, and the licensee's approach, with the licensee in three or four teleconferences. Lee's participation was crucial to the successful review of the licensee's proposal, since it required detailed statistical expertise that is not available in the Division of Waste Management. We hope that Lee will continue to be available for future assistance related to statistical issues.

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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