

December 10, 1996

Mr. Joseph D. Phillips, R.G.
Memphis Environmental Center, Inc.
2603 Corporate Avenue, Suite 100
Memphis, TN 38132

SUBJECT: RADIOLOGICAL SCOPING SURVEY AT FORMER NRC LICENSEE,
MICHIGAN CHEMICAL COMPANY'S LOW LEVEL DISPOSAL SITE,
(NRC REPORT NO. 040-06264/96001(DNMS))

Dear Mr. Phillips:

This refers to the radiological scoping survey conducted October 31, 1996, at the former Michigan Chemical Corporation's (MCC) closed low level radiological waste burial site, located near Breckenridge, Michigan. The site is now the property of Velsicol Chemical Company (VCC). The purpose of this survey was to determine if this burial, authorized by a past regulation (10 CFR 20.304), constituted a significant risk to public health and safety, or to the environment. This refers also to the November 26, 1996, telephone conversation between you and Mr. McCann regarding the preliminary survey findings, and the additional information you provided concerning security and posting of the site.

No significant risk was identified. However, based on the results of our radiological survey, as described in the attached report, it appears that the radiological exposure levels, and radiological soil concentrations identified at the former MCC Disposal Site, exceed NRC guideline values for free release of facilities, and areas where licensed radioactive materials may have been used, stored, or buried. Since our survey was of limited scope we believe that determining what future actions may be necessary, such as partial release or remediation of the site, will require additional radiological characterization of the Disposal Site.

To assure timely resolution of this issue, we understand that you intend to develop a schedule and approach (including use of a consultant) for more detailed characterization of the site. Within 60 days from the date of this letter, please provide your schedule and scoping survey plans to this office for review.

The guidance documents, referenced in the attached report have been sent to you under separate cover. If additional information is needed, please contact us.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and the enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

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J. Phillips

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Should you have any questions regarding the survey and our findings, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. McCann at (630) 829-9856 or myself at (630) 829-9800.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by

Cynthia D. Pederson, Director
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

License No. SMB-00833 (Terminated)
Docket No. 040-06264

Enclosure: Inspection Report
No. 040-06264/96001(DNMS)

cc w/encl: D. Minaar, Michigan Dept.
of Environmental Quality
Radiological Protection Section
R. Alward

bcc w/encl: H. Astwood, DWM
J. Hickey, DWM
D. Fauver, DWM
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