

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II

Docket No.: 040-01957 (retired)

License No.: SUB-00081 (retired)

Report No.: SUB-00081/96-01

Licensee: Homer Laughlin China Company

Locations: Newell, WV

Date: August 13, 1996

Inspector: Jay L. Henson, Radiation Specialist

Approved by: John P. Potter, Chief
Materials Licensing/Inspection Branch 2
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Enclosure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Homer Laughlin China Company
NRC Inspection Report No. SUB-00081/96-01

This routine, announced inspection was conducted to evaluate the decommissioning activities being conducted at the facilities utilized by the Homer Laughlin China Co. (HLC) under their former License No. SUB-00081. This included discussions with cognizant licensee representatives, reviews of documents, and direct observations of the site where decommissioning activities have been conducted.

The inspector found that at the time of the inspection, neither HLC nor its contractor, Applied Health Physics (AHP), personnel were actively involved in any decommissioning activities. HLC had not completed its response to the NRC, Region II letter dated April 5, 1996, which requested additional information regarding HLC's request for the release of its facility and equipment based upon alternative unrestricted release criteria. HLC did not intend to conduct any further decommissioning until they received a final NRC decision regarding their request. HLC personnel estimated that they could submit a response to the NRC within 90 days.

The inspector examined the facilities and equipment that had been subject to the decontamination and decommissioning efforts and the area where the contaminated materials which had been removed from the facility were stored. The material was segregated within Plant No. 4 in an area that was posted with radioactive material signs. The contaminated materials were packaged in containers which will be used to ship it to a disposal site.

No violations or concerns were noted during the inspection.

LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

Licensee

*W. Smith, Health & Safety Manager

D. Haber, Applied Health Physics

*Attended August 13, 1996, Exit Meeting

REPORT DETAILS

01. Management Oversight (87100)

HLC contracted with AHP to perform the decontamination and decommissioning activities of the facility. HLC personnel maintained oversight of the overall project but relied upon AHP to provide the health physics expertise necessary to safely perform the decontamination and decommissioning activities. AHP was currently assisting HLC to prepare its response to the NRC, Region II letter dated April 5, 1996, which requested additional information regarding HLC's proposal to release the facility and equipment based upon alternative release criteria.

02. Facilities (87100)

The inspector examined the areas within Plant No. 4 which were subject to the decontamination and decommissioning activities. These areas included the Ball Mill Room, Glaze Tank Room, Storage Vault, Kiln, and the area where the contaminated materials removed during the decommissioning effort were stored. The contaminated materials were packaged in containers which will be used to ship the material to the disposal site when the decommissioning project is finished. The storage area was surrounded with yellow tape and radioactive material signs were posted around the perimeter of the area.

EXIT MEETING SUMMARY

The inspector presented the inspection results to a licensee representative at the conclusion of the inspection on August 13, 1996. The inspector informed the licensee representative that no violations of NRC requirements were identified. The inspector asked the licensee when he expected to respond to the NRC, Region II request for additional information regarding the licensee proposed alternate release criteria. The licensee responded that AHP was assisting HLC in preparing the response and that they estimated that the response would be forwarded to the NRC in approximately 90 days. The inspector encouraged the licensee representative to forward the response as soon as possible.

INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED

IP 87100: Licensed Materials Program
IP 83890: Closeout Inspection and Survey

TEMPORARY INSTRUCTIONS USED

TI 2800/026: Followup Inspection of Formerly-Licensed Sites Identified As Potentially Contaminated