

October 25, 1996

Mr. Anthony Campitelli  
Manager, Environmental Affairs  
Cabot Performance Materials  
P.O. Box 1608  
County Line Road  
Boyertown, PA 19512

Dear Mr. Campitelli:

I am writing to inform you that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has approved the Characterization Report for the Reading Slag Pile that you submitted on April 4, 1996, based on the revisions, explanations and clarifications in your letters of July 11 and September 12, 1996. As you know, if Cabot proposes onsite disposal in its Site Decommissioning Plan, additional site characterization will be necessary, including detailed environmental characterization, groundwater characterization, and a slope stability analysis. Guidance for such characterization is provided in the staff's Draft Branch Technical Position (BTP) on Site Characterization for Decommissioning.

Although NRC has determined that your leach rate calculation methodology is acceptable, you are advised that any dose assessment that may be required will need to take into account the leaching of the daughter radionuclides in the slag. Some dose assessment computer codes, such as RESRAD, account for the daughters automatically. For other computer codes, you might need to derive separate leach rates for each daughter radionuclide (for example, by using the methodology you developed for the uranium or thorium leach rate calculations.)

If you have any questions, you can call me at (301) 415-7298 or Judi Greenwald at (301) 415-6635.

Sincerely,  
[Original signed by]  
Robert A. Nelson, Chief  
Low-Level Waste and Regulatory Issues  
Section  
Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning  
Projects Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and  
Safeguards

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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. Nelson", is written over the typed name.

Robert A. Nelson, Chief  
Low-Level Waste and Regulatory Issues  
Section  
Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning  
Projects Branch  
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