

40-8724



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 4, 1997

Mr. David C. Fannin
Vice President
Chemetron Corporation
Suite 200
1615 South Congress Avenue
Delray Beach, FL 33444

SUBJECT: MCGEAN-ROHCO BUILDING SURVEYS

Dear Mr. Fannin:

In reviewing the status of the remediation of the McGean-Rohco buildings, we found that we have not explicitly released the interior of Building 20A for unrestricted use. On January 4, 1995, Chemetron submitted final survey data for this building and on January 25, 1995, a U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspection report documented confirmatory surveys in the building. However, some sediment in a drain line was found to have contamination in excess of 35 pCi/gm. On May 4, 1995, Chemetron explained the followup actions taken to remediate the drain line, and on June 6, 1995, NRC staff indicated that these actions were acceptable. A November 16, 1995, inspection report presented some additional soil sampling in areas where the concrete floor in Building 20A had been removed. No contamination in excess of the limits was found. In the November 16, 1995, inspection report a statement is made that Building 20A was previously released. However, in the above documentation, there is no explicit release of the interior of Building 20A.

After discussions with Mr. Ken Lambert, the Region III inspector who performed the above noted confirmatory surveys, and a review of the survey results, we conclude that the survey results of the interior of Building 20A are less than the NRC's unrestricted use criteria for depleted uranium of less than 5,000 dpm/100 cm² average fixed alpha and beta-gamma activity; less than 15,000 dpm/100 cm² maximum fixed alpha and beta-gamma activity; less than 1,000 dpm/100 cm² removable alpha and beta-gamma activity; exposure rate measurements for indoor areas are less than 5 uR/hr above background at 1 meter; and soil is less than 35 pCi/gm. These criteria are found in NRC's "Guidelines for Decontamination of Facilities and Equipment Prior to Release for Unrestricted Use or Termination of Licenses for Byproduct, Source, or Special Nuclear Material," August 1987; the Branch Technical Position, "Disposal or Onsite Storage of Thorium or Uranium Wastes From Past Operations," October 1981; and your proposed criteria cited in the "Site Remediation Plan Chemetron Remediation Project Harvard Avenue and Bert Avenue Sites Chemetron Corporation, Inc., Newburgh Heights, Ohio," October 1993, Revision 0, accepted in License Condition 14 of your license.

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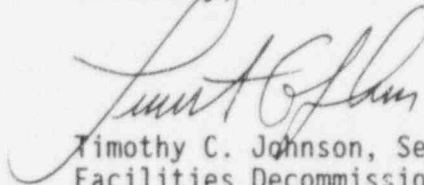
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Based on the above, the interior of Building 20A is acceptable for unrestricted use. NRC will not require any additional decommissioning of the interior of Building 20A in response to future NRC criteria or standards, except in the event that additional contamination, or noncompliance with the remediation of the McGean-Rohco buildings is found, indicating a significant threat to public health and safety.

On January 14, 1997, Dr. Barry Koh transmitted a fax indicating that a typographical error had been made in the first sentence of the third full paragraph on the second page of my letter to you dated January 6, 1997. This letter released several McGean-Rohco buildings. The reference to Building 19 should be corrected to Building 18.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-415-7299.

Sincerely,



Timothy C. Johnson, Section Leader
Facilities Decommissioning Section
Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning
Projects Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 040-08724
License No. SUB-1357

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D. Fannin

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Based on the above, the interior of Building 20A is acceptable for unrestricted use. NRC will not require any additional decommissioning of the interior of Building 20A in response to future NRC criteria or sta except in the event that additional contamination, or noncompliance with the remediation of the McGean-Rohco buildings is found, indicating a significant threat to public health and safety.

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[Original signed by]

Timothy C. Johnson, Section Leader
Facilities Decommissioning Section
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