

11/17/59

Mr. J. V. Fitzgerald  
Tile Council of America, Inc.  
Research Center  
P. O. Box 126  
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Fitzgerald:

The following information is provided in reply to your letter of October 9, 1959:

The Atomic Energy Commission has authorized the use of uranium in coloring compounds to be used in pottery and ornamental glassware under conditions specified in individual licenses granted to the manufacturers of color compounds.

The use of uranium colors in ceramic tile has not been authorized. The radiation levels from samples of ceramic tile containing several per cent of uranium in the color compound used for glazing are sufficiently high to result in possible radiation exposures comparable to those which have been made the subject of such public concern during the last several years. We do not believe it is to the best interest of either the manufacturers of ceramic tile or the public at large to authorize the use of radioactive glazes until definitive criteria for the application of annually recommended standards of radiation protection to such uses can be established.

Sincerely yours,

Nathan M. Woodruff  
Director  
Office of Health and Safety

B/152