

February 27, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR: D. Blair Spitzberg, Chief
Nuclear Materials Licensing Branch
Division of Radiation Safety
and Safeguards, RIV

FROM: John W. N. Hickey, Chief [Original signed by]
Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning
Projects Branch
Division of Waste Management, NMSS

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF LAND BURIAL OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL AT THE FORMER
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE) PROJECT CHARIOT SITE IN ALASKA

The Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning Projects Branch has completed its review of the information you forwarded to us regarding the DOE remediation of the Project Chariot site. Our review indicates that no additional actions need to be taken by NRC or the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for this site.

The information states that the USGS had an Atomic Energy Commission license to perform tracer studies as part of its involvement in the DOE's Plowshare Program conducted at the Project Chariot site in Cape Thompson, Alaska during the early 1960's. This project was developed to investigate the peaceful uses of radioactive materials. In 1988, DOE claimed responsibility for the radioactive material (approximately 6 mCi Cs-137 in soil) and remediated the site in 1993. The site was remediated to background levels (2-3 pCi/g Cs-137) and the contaminated soil was transported to the Nevada Test Site and disposed of in a shallow land disposal facility on site.

At the time of remediation, DOE performed confirmatory surveys of the soil, surface water, groundwater, and local flora and fauna and found no additional contamination or adverse effects of the original material. Both DOE and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation have reported that the site has been adequately remediated.

Because the site has been remediated to background levels, and the DOE has claimed responsibility for, and disposed of, the contaminated soil, no further actions are needed for this site.

CONTACT: Heather Astwood, NMSS/DWM
(301) 415-5819

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning
Projects Branch
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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John W. N. Hickey", is written over the typed name in the "FROM:" field.

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