

STATE OF MICHIGAN



JAMES J. BLANCHARD, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

3500 N. LOGAN
P.O. BOX 30035, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
GLORIA R. SMITH, Ph.D., M.P.H., F.A.A.N., Director

PRINCIPAL STAFF			
RA	✓	ENF	
D/RA		SCS	
A/RA		PAO	
DPRP		SLO	
DRMA		RC	
DRMSP			
UE			
ML			
OL		FILE	✓

July 12, 1983

Mr. James R. Miller
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region III
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Dear Mr. Miller:

This letter concerns the SCA Services, Inc. (formerly Hartley & Hartley) landfill near Bay City, Michigan, where radioactive material was detected as indicated in my previous letter of May 16, 1983.

An area of the SCA property, about 300 feet by 200 feet adjacent to the contaminated Department of Natural Resources (DNR) property has been surveyed and found to contain radioactive materials. Survey readings were similar to those from the DNR property, up to 80 micro R/hour at waist level, compared with background readings of 3-5 micro R/hour.

A limited number of soil samples from the DNR and SCA property were collected and analyzed, ranging from 36 to 670 pCi/gram (dry) of thorium-232 with its daughter products, and 6 to 20% of magnesium. Two "background" soil samples from the DNR property about 10 feet from contaminated areas contained negligible amounts of thorium and magnesium, and a nearby surface water (swamp/pond) sample contained a negligible amount of thorium.

We are aware of three NRC licensees from the area who used thorium in significant amounts; Velsicol Chemical Company, Dow Chemical Company, and Wellman Dynamics Company. Of these three, Velsicol Chemical Company did not (to our knowledge) use thorium with high magnesium content. Both of the remaining two companies used magnesium/thorium alloys. Wellman used magnesium/thorium alloy stock from Dow, but moved from Bay City some time ago. Dow recently decontaminated property formerly occupied by Wellman.

18,500 barrels

EGG Flyover

8508280148 850712
PDR FOIA
KOHNB5-256 PDR

K-7

JUL 18 1983

Mr. James R. Miller
July 12, 1983
Page 2

In physical appearance and analysis, the material from the DNR and SCA property resembles magnesium/thorium sludge accumulated from Dow/Wellman operations and now being stored on Dow property in Bay City and Midland.

Also, DNR investigations have revealed evidence that both companies used the Hartley and Hartley disposal site. According to DNR, cleanup of the area is a very high State priority item because it includes property owned by the State and the initiation of cleanup operations is targeted for early this fall.

Accordingly, we are asking that the NRC conduct a timely investigation of this matter to determine if an NRC licensee is involved and to determine corrective measures. Please keep us informed of NRC activities related to this matter. In addition, we would appreciate the opportunity to accompany NRC staff during any onsite investigations.

If you need further information, please let us know.

Sincerely,

ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL
HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



George W. Bruchmann, Acting Chief
Radiological Health Services Division

GWB/JHbs

cc: William Menczer, NRC
Ross Powers, EPA
John Hesse, MDPH
Gary Gettel, MDNR
Jack Bails, MDNR Chief Environmental Enf. Div.
Pete Tedeschi, EPA

7/20 told him of our intent to inspect Aug 9-12
low recently shipped from Bay City