

Regis. III

40-7604



VISTRON CORPORATION

FT. AMANDA ROAD, P. O. BOX 628, LIMA, OHIO 45802

July 2, 1979

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U.S. NUC. REG.
COMMISSION
PRESS MAIL SECTION

Mr. Paul Guinn
License Management Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle and Material Safety
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C., 20555

SUB-908

Dear Sir:

Your letter dated June 12, 1979 in reference to our request for amendment of License No. SUB-908 (Docket No. 40-07604) was received and reviewed. The following comments pertain to the itemized sections in your letter:

1) Contaminated Soil Areas

- A) The contaminated soil areas have been identified by Vistron as being confined to: a) the thermal oxidizer area, b) the No. 1 reactor area, c) the No. 2 reactor area, and d) around the burning pond.

This is our understanding also.

- B) Radiation surveys of soil areas will be made with a calibrated Texas Nuclear Model 2652 survey meter and a Model 2661 probe (mica end-window tube). All soil areas found to contain contamination will be removed and placed in metal drums for disposal. Chem-Nuclear will remove the drums of waste from our plant for disposal by burial at Barnwell, South Carolina.

This is our understanding also.

- C) After all measurable contamination as identified by means of radiation surveys has been removed, the soil will be monitored further for measurable contamination by collecting soil samples which will be sent to Eberline for analysis. Any area identified by this method as containing measurable amounts of contamination will be further decontaminated by removal of the soil until all measurable contamination has been removed.

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We do not recall any conversation stating we would send soil samples to Eberline for further monitoring. We plan to pick up and dispose of any soil showing contamination. With a newly purchased survey meter, surveys of the areas show either very low readings (no contamination) or high readings (contamination). When high readings are found, the soil will be removed until the very low readings are obtained. Once the clean-up has been completed, all areas will have six inch deep core samples taken and spread out so they will be checked with the survey meter through no more than seven milligrams per square centimeter of total absorber.

- D) All soil contamination will be removed from our plant by September 1, 1979 except for possible soil areas in or around the burning pond which is discussed below.

With the exception of the burning pond (see below) this is our understanding also.

2) Facilities

It is our understanding that our radiation survey and decontamination activities in our facilities where depleted uranium was used and/or stored will be conducted in accordance with the enclosed "Guidelines For Decontamination of Facilities and Equipment Prior to Release for Unrestricted Use or Termination of Licenses for Byproduct, Source or Special Nuclear Material".

This is our understanding also. The guidelines, Table 1 - Acceptable Surface Contamination Levels note and state "the average and maximum radiation levels associated with surface contamination resulting from beta-gamma emitters should not exceed 0.2 mrads/hr at 1 cm. and 1.0 mrads/hr at 1 cm., respectively, measured through not more than 7 milligrams per square centimeter of total absorber". At our meeting with you, the background level was agreed to be 0.1 mrads per hour so we are using as acceptable a survey meter reading less than 0.3 mrads per hour for beta-emitters.

3) Burning Pond Area

To further clarify our plans for the burning pond area, we plan to proceed as follows:

Around the burning pond (dry soil) will be treated like other contaminated soil area as mentioned above. From the burning pond we plan to drag sludge samples in a bucket; water will be decanted off and the sludge then dried. The dried sludge will be checked with the survey meter to

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Mr. Paul Guinn

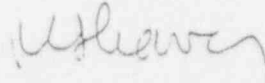
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July 2, 1979

determine whether it is contaminated. If no contamination is apparent, nothing further is planned. If the sludge is contaminated, we will plan to drain the pond, dry up the pond for several days, check the soil in the pond with the survey meter, remove as necessary and package for disposal as described for soil areas in 1a through 1c above.

All personnel involved in the radiation survey and decontamination activities will be equipped with a) film badges or thermoluminescent dosimeters, dust respirators and gloves and shoe covers. After all contamination has been removed from our plant, we will send a report to you showing the results of our radiation survey and decontamination activities along with a request for termination of License No. SUB-908.

Respectfully yours,



R. C. Shower, Manager
Manufacturing Control

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BP CHEMICALS

BP Chemicals Inc
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(419) 226-1200

April 29, 1992

Mr. John H. Austin, Chief
Decommissioning and Regulatory Issues Branch
Division of Low-Level Waste Management and Decommissioning
Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1155 Rockville Road
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: License No. SUB-908
Docket No. 040-07604

Gentlemen:

BP Chemicals, Inc. herewith applies for an extension of the expiration date of its NRC License No. SUB-908 in order to continue decontamination and decommissioning efforts at its Lima, Ohio manufacturing facility. BP Chemicals has proceeded with decontamination and decommissioning work in good faith, but cannot complete said efforts by the current May 31, 1992 license expiration date. This request for license extension is applied for using a letter format instead of the standard NRC Form 313 format on the advice of Mr. K. J. Lambert of NRC Region III and Mr. Sam Nalluswami, the newly assigned Project Manager for NRC.

A five-year extension is sought, although it is the intention of BP Chemicals to continue its decontamination and decommissioning efforts in good faith as allowed by the NRC and other regulatory agencies. Because our efforts are regulated separately by both the NRC and by other agencies, including the USEPA, Ohio EPA and the Midwest Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission (Midwest Compact Commission), the approval process has turned out to be slower than anticipated. Although portions of the decontamination and decommissioning work have been delayed by the regulatory process, BP Chemicals has made significant progress in other portions where we have received authorization to proceed.

There remain four areas at the Lima facility which require continued decontamination and decommissioning efforts by BP Chemicals. Three of the four areas have previously been identified in BP Chemicals' Decontamination and Decommissioning Plan and one new area has recently been discovered. The three previously identified areas are: (1) the acrylonitrile process areas, including reactors, equipment, buildings and contaminated soil; (2) four surface impoundments containing low-level radioactive and RCRA hazardous mixed waste; and (3) 1700 drums containing sand blast waste from the previously completed decontamination of Lima's catalyst plant. The fourth area which was recently found to contain low-level radioactivity in addition to RCRA hazardous waste is the CERCLA landfill, which is designated by the USEPA as Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) No. 102. Following is a description of our efforts to date with respect to each of these areas and our tentative plans and schedule for completing decontamination and decommissioning activities:

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1. Acrylonitrile Process Areas - Work to decontaminate and decommission these areas proceeded through 1991. With the exception of B-2 reactor which is still in service, all reactors, equipment and buildings were either decontaminated or dismantled and shipped offsite to Envirocare of Utah, Inc. for disposal. In addition, a portion of the contaminated soil was also excavated and shipped offsite for disposal. In total, 6000 tons of steel and soil were shipped offsite. In addition, another 2000 tons of soil were excavated for shipment offsite. The cost for this work through 1991 exceeded \$12,000,000.

At the end of 1991 a radiological survey was conducted to determine how much more contamination remained. The results indicated that an additional 6000 tons of soil remained which contained 35 pci/gr or more of low-level radioactivity. Subsequently in January 1992 the decontamination and decommissioning work was stopped. Arrangements were made to place the 2000 tons of previously excavated soil in temporary storage in accordance with the requirements set forth by the NRC in a April 10, 1992 letter. The work was stopped for two reasons: (1) a cost effective alternative was needed in light of the updated estimate of quantities remaining and costs already incurred, and (2) a portion of the remaining contaminated soil had been designated in the Lima site's USEPA RCRA Part B Permit as a Solid Waste Management Unit. This unit is the old catalyst wastewater settler tank (SWMU No. 98) and, although the tank has been excavated and disposed of offsite, the adjacent and underlying soils will have to be investigated and remediated in accordance with the USEPA's corrective action program.

On January 9, 1992 representatives of BP Chemicals met with members of the Decommissioning and Regulatory Issues Branch of NRC to discuss the possibility of disposing of all remaining low-level radioactive waste onsite in NRC approved disposal cells. It was indicated to BP Chemicals' representatives that this strategy might be possible but that the approval of the Midwest Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission would first have to be secured. BP Chemicals is currently pursuing this option through our legal council, Hutton and Williams. The approval processes of the two commissions together with the subsequent cell construction program will likely require up to two years to complete. Excavation of the remaining 6000 tons of soil will then proceed, but the excavation of that portion which is also regulated by the USEPA could be further delayed by the requirements of the USEPA's corrective action program.

2. Drums of Low-Level Radioactive Waste

Approximately 1700 55-gallon drums of sand blast sand and debris were generated during decontamination of the Acrylonitrile Catalyst Plant in 1988. These drums have been in storage at the Lima site since they were generated. Because of the low levels of radioactivity in these drums, they do not require disposal in an NRC licensed disposal facility. BP Chemicals has been unable to locate any alternate offsite disposal facility and therefore plans to seek NRC approval to incorporate these drums in the onsite disposal if such disposal is authorized by both NRC and the Midwest Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission. The timing of this disposal will coincide with the timing of item 1.

3. Mixed Waste Ponds

A license amendment application for the onsite disposal of the contents of four mixed waste ponds was submitted to NRC for approval on August 15, 1991. Notice of consideration was published in the Federal Register on November 19,

1991, but to date BP Chemicals has received neither an approval nor comments from NRC. BP Chemicals has proceeded with the waste consolidation and pond decontamination portion of the project which is authorized by the existing license, but that work must be terminated on May 8, 1992 when a USEPA land ban for mixed waste becomes effective. BP Chemicals has applied to the USEPA for a "case-by-case" extension of the land ban effective date, but we have not yet been granted the extension. Unless an extension is granted by the USEPA, the timing for decontaminating and decommissioning the ponds will be pushed into the future by the lack of an USEPA approved treatment standard for mixed waste.

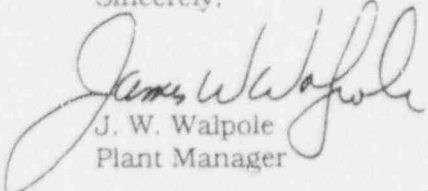
4. CERCLA Landfill (SWMU No. 102)

This solid waste management unit has been known to BP Chemicals since it was created during the period between 1970 and 1976. It was identified for corrective action in the USEPA RCRA Part B Permit for the Lima site. Until 1991 however, it was only known to contain solid and possibly hazardous waste. In November 1991 a sampling program was conducted after a routine analysis of a soil sample excavated near the SWMU tested greater than 35 pci/gr. Based on the sampling program results the SWMU contains about 0.9 curies of depleted uranium in low concentrations in the soil. Since the SWMU is believed to contain RCRA hazardous waste, it is now being treated as containing mixed waste. Any cleanup will be regulated by the NRC and by the USEPA under the requirements of its corrective action program. An application for extension of the USEPA land ban effective date has been submitted to the USEPA. The application calls for onsite disposal of the mixed waste contents of SWMU No. 102 in a NRC and USEPA approved disposal cell. The implementation of this project will take about two years after approval of the extension. Without the USEPA extension the disposal will be on a schedule controlled by the USEPA's corrective action program, by the USEPA's promulgation of a treatment standard for mixed waste, and by the availability of offsite treatment.

As described above, BP Chemicals has been actively engaged in decontamination and decommissioning activities to the extent possible under current licenses, regulatory approvals, rules and regulations. Despite the efforts of BP Chemicals, completion of these activities cannot occur on or before the expiration date of its current license which is May 31, 1992. Further, the completion of these activities may take several years. For this reason it is requested that the expiration date of the current license be extended to May 31, 1997, to afford BP Chemicals the time needed to complete these activities to the satisfaction of the NRC and all other affected regulatory commissions and agencies.

Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated. If there are any questions or if you wish to arrange a meeting to discuss this matter further, please contact either Mr. Hugh M. Blythe at 419/226-1297 or call me at 419/226-1201.

Sincerely,


J. W. Walpole
Plant Manager

cc: K. J. Lambert, NRC, Region III
S. Nalluswami, NRC