

May 13, 1998

MEMORANDUM TO: John T. Greeves, Director
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

FROM: Douglas M. Collins, Director original signed by C. Hosey
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT OF REGION II REVIEW OF OAK RIDGE NATIONAL
LABORATORY (ORNL) LIST OF POTENTIALLY CONTAMINATED SITES

The quarterly status reports for Region II sites contained on the ORNL list of formerly licensed sites which were identified as potentially contaminated are contained in Attachments 1 through 4. The status reports for sites with an ORNL final score greater than 300 which remain open are in Attachment 1 and those with a score from 5 to 300 which Region II has reviewed and remain open are listed in Attachment 2. Each assessment paragraph in Attachments 1 and 2 reflects the quarterly status at the time of the evaluation. The information required for the Monthly Information Status Report is in Attachment 3. A tabular summary of all files assigned to Region II is in Attachment 4. Please note that the most current information in the attachments is in bold.

If you have any questions regarding these reports or our evaluations, please contact Mr. Bryan A. Parker of my staff at (404) 562-4728.

- Attachments: (1) Reports for sites >300 (remain open)
(2) Reports for sites <300 (remain open)
(3) Monthly Information Status Report
(4) Tabular summary for all Region II sites

OFFICE	RIT:DNMS	RIT:DNMS	RIT:DNMS					
SIGNATURE								
NAME	BParker	TDecker	CHosey					
DATE	5/13/98	5/13/98	5/13/98	5/ /98	5/ /98	5/ /98	5/ /98	5/ /98
COPY?	(YES) NO	(YES) NO	(YES) NO	YES NO				

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\DNMS\DECOMM\05-98TS.MEM

STATUS REPORTS FOR SITES REVIEWED WITH SCORES
<300

(REMAIN IN OPEN STATUS)

1. SUB-00081 Homer Laughlin China
Co.
2. STB-00058 Du Pont
3. C-04327 Fostoria Glass Company
SUC-00628

4. 01-00126-13 Army-Redstone Arsenal*
5. 10-00512-01 U.S. Public Health Service
(HHS)***
6. 10-00512-04 U.S. Public Health Service
(HHS)***
7. 10-09653-01 Luminous Processes, Inc.**

8. SNM-00430 Radiochemistry, Inc.**
- 9- 52-13137-01 Department of HEW*
10. 52-15968-01 TII Industires, Inc.***
11. 41-08165-09 Tennessee Valley Authority***
12. 41-08165-17 Tennessee Valley Authority***
13. C-03569 Kingston Pencil Corporation**
14. SNM-01476 Tennessee Valley Authority***
15. 10-12233-02 Southern Space, Inc.
16. 45-03499-05 College of William & Mary***
17. 45-13733-01 Meloy Labs, Inc.***
18. 45-17819-01 U.S. Army (535th Engr Det.)*
19. C-03523 National Advisory Committee for
Aeronautics*
20. 47-01163-20 West Virginia University***
21. C-04576 Hercules Powder Co.*
22. 04-07316-02 Naval Energy & Environmental
Support
Activity***

Initial review indicated low priority and did not warrant development of a site status report.

File has been transferred to the Agreement State where use took place and remains open awaiting response from the State.

Site status report for this site has not yet been developed as this is a new file recently received under Phase 3 of the ORNL Terminated License Review Project, and has not yet been fully reviewed and assessed. A site status report will be included in the next quarterly report, if warranted.

REGIONII TERMINATED SITES LIST
SITE STATUS REPORT

April 23, 1998

Docket No. 040-01957

License No. SUB-00081

Licensee Name: Homer Laughlin China Company

Site Name: Homer Laughlin China Company

Site Address:

City: Newell

State: WV

Zip: 26050-1299

Regional Contact: Bryan A. Parker

Phone: (404) 562-4728

Status Summary:

ORNL Final Score: 115

Background

In February, 1959, the Homer Laughlin China Company was issued Source Material License No. C-4475. This license authorized possession of 100,000 pounds of source material for use in manufacturing glazed ceramic tableware (glaze to contain not more than 20% uranium).

In February, 1961, this license was renewed and the license number was changed to SUB-00081.

Records indicate that licensed activities were performed in Plant No. 4 and materials were stored in a vault adjacent to the dispensary at Plant No. 8. Records also indicate that the rinse water from washing equipment used to transport uranium glaze entered the city sewer system and in some cases was washed into a storm drain that emptied directly into the Ohio River. Inspection records indicate that these effluents were estimated to be approximately 40% of the regulatory limits.

In a letter dated February 28, 1972 Homer Laughlin China (HLC) requested termination of their license and stated that all remaining licensed materials had been returned to their supplier. On March 29, 1972, the AEC terminated the license.

REGION II TERMINATED SITES
LIST
SITE STATUS REPORT

April 23, 1998

Homer Laughlin China Company
Newell, WV

License No. SUB-00081
Docket No. 040-01957

Background (cont'd)

In August, 1994, the former licensee discovered that it possessed **approximately** 500 pounds of uranium oxide (U3O8). Subsequent to this discovery, the licensee hired a contractor to survey areas where licensed materials were used and stored. Several areas of significant contamination were discovered during this characterization survey. HLC **sent** the results of this survey to Region II on September 28, 1994.

On November 4, 1994, Region II issued a Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) to HLC to ensure that the uranium oxide was properly stored and secured and that adequate control measures were implemented to protect personnel from the contamination discovered in the facility. On November 17, 1994, a Region II inspector visited the site to determine if HLC had implemented adequate protective measures. HLC had secured the material and the contamination areas as required by the CAL.

On January 5, 1995, HLC submitted their decommissioning plan for the facility. On January 9, 1995, Region II forwarded comments on the plan to HLC. HLC submitted a revised plan on January 10 and Region II approved the plan on January 12, 1995.

HLC and its decommissioning contractor began decommissioning efforts after approval of the plan. The contractor has completed the , decontamination of the majority of the facility and is currently working to complete decontamination of some equipment. HLC and its contractor are having some difficulty in finding an acceptable means to dispose of the waste and bulk material.

Assessment

Region II will continue to monitor HLC's progress in decommissioning this facility. A confirmatory survey will be scheduled upon completion of HLC's decommissioning effort and review of their final survey report.

HLC's efforts to decontaminate/decommission their facility continues. Most of the building surfaces have been decontaminated, but some contaminated equipment remains to be removed and either decontaminated or disposed of as radioactive waste. Region II has visited the site on two occasions to survey floor areas in some currently operational areas which HLC needed to have released for operational safety reasons. Based upon the Region II surveys, these floor surfaces were determined to not meet the free release

criteria and were not approved for release for unrestricted use. HLC and their contractor, Applied Health Physics, are evaluating the conditions which resulted in these areas not meeting the release criteria. Region II will continue to monitor HLC's decommissioning effort.

REGIONII TERMINATED SITES LIST
SITE STATUS REPORT

April 23, 1998

Homer Laughlin China Company
Newell, WV

License No. SUB-00081
Docket No. 040-01957

Assessment (cont'd)

In a letter dated August 1, 1995, HLC stated that they had completed their decontamination and decommissioning efforts, but had some areas which could not be remediated to the current criteria for release for unrestricted use. HLC enclosed a risk analysis report with the letter with a request that the NRC review the report for the purpose of approving a variance on release of specified equipment and areas from the current release criteria. Region II has completed a preliminary review of the documents submitted by HLC and requested some additional information before a final review is completed. Once this additional information is received, the request will be forwarded to NMSS via a TAR for review and approval.

The HLC request was forwarded for review in a TAR on November 1, 1995. DLWM personnel expect to reply to the TAR by February 16, 1996. From a preliminary review, DLWM expects to have additional questions for HLC to answer before a final decision is rendered.

Region II personnel performed a survey of some floor areas within the HLC facility in December, 1995. The licensee had requested a release survey of some floor areas in a busy area of the facility so that the floors could be repaired. The licensee was concerned about personnel injuring themselves when trying to walk over these floor areas. As a result of this survey, these areas were declared suitable for release for unrestricted use and the licensee initiated repairs to the floors.

NMSS responded to the TAR in a letter dated March 22, 1996. In the TAR response, NMSS requested that HLC respond to fifteen comments before a decision is made regarding the approval of alternate unrestricted use limits for surface contamination. Region II forwarded the comments to HLC in a letter dated April 5, 1996. In a phone call on May 13, 1996, the HLC contractor reported that he is working on a response to the comments and should complete the response by June, 1996.

HLC was contacted on August 6, 1996, to determine the status on its response to the April 5, 1996 letter. Due to financial concerns, HLC has not completed their response. RII staff have scheduled an inspection for August 13, to review the status of the facility and the decommissioning effort.

RII staff conducted an inspection at HLC on August 13, 1996. HLC had not performed any further decommissioning pending resolution of its request for alternate release criteria. HLC intends to respond to the RII April letter regarding this request by November, 1996.

REGIONII TERMINATED SITES LIST
SITE STATUS REPORT

April 23, 1998

Homer Laughlin China Company
Newell, WV

License No. SUB-00081
Docket No. 040-01957

Assessment (cont'd)

In December, 1996, HLC reported that they had not received a response from their health physics contractor who HLC hired to perform the decommissioning and to respond to the April 5, 1996, letter from RII. HLC's contractor has experienced financial and personnel problems which have delayed the response. In a January, 1997 letter, HLC's contractor, Applied Health Physics, informed RII that they were now working to complete the response. RII staff contacted HLC's contractor and was informed that a response would be forwarded by March 10, 1997.

As of June 20, 1997, HLC had not received response from contractor. HLC contacted the contractor. Applied HP, who in turn contacted Region II and informed us that a meeting was scheduled for June 27, 1997, to complete the response. Applied HP will forward the completed response to HLC for review, who will then forward it to Region II.

As of October 7, 1997, Applied HP had not completed the response for HLC due to some software problems. Applied HP indicated that they expected the response to be completed soon. at which time they would forward it to HLC which would then forward it to Region II.

In early February 1998, Region II received a response from HLC dated January 28, 1998, indicating that they were providing the balance of the 15 items of information initially requested by DWM in Region II's April 5, 1996 letter. Response to items 1, 2, 3 and 5 were submitted by HLC letter dated March 12, 1997. The January 28, 1998, response for the remaining 15 items is currently being reviewed by Region II and a TAR is being prepared to forward the response to DWM for its review.