

MEMORANDUM TO: Donald A. Cool, Director  
Division of Industrial and Medical  
Nuclear Safety  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

FROM: Bruce S. Mallett, Director  
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 those Region II sites contained on the ORNL list of formerly licensed sites identified as potentially contaminated are contained in Attachments I through 4. The status reports for those 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 where Region II has performed some action are listed in Attachment 2. The status reports for those sites which are recommended for deletion are listed in Attachment 3. The information required for the Monthly Information Status Report is in Attachment 4. A tabular summary of all files assigned to Region II is in Attachment 5.

Region II recently received copies of most of the remaining files for the sites with sealed sources not accounted for. However, not all sealed source files on the ORNL list have been forwarded to Region II (Attachment 6). When all sealed source files are received, the seventy pending cases will be sorted by state and divided among the staff for follow-up and resolution.

If you have any questions regarding these reports or our evaluations, please contact Mr. Jay L. Henson of my staff at (404) 331-0344.

Attachments: (1) Reports for sites >300 (remain open)  
(2) Reports for sites <300 (remain open)  
(3) Reports for sites <300 (recommend deletion)  
(4) Monthly Information Status Report  
(5) Tabular summary for all Region II sites  
(6) List of sealed source files not in Region II



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION II  
101 MARIETTA STREET, N.W., SUITE 2900  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30323-0199

May 16, 1996



**UNITED STATES**  
**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
 REGION II  
 101 MARIETTA STREET, N.W., SUITE 2900  
 ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30323-0199

See previous concurrence

OFFICE	RII:DNMS	RII:DNMS				
SIGNATURE						
NAME	JHenson*	JPotter*				
DATE	06 / / 96	06 / / 96	06 / / 96	06 / / 96	06 / / 96	06 / / 96
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STATUS REPORTS FOR SITES REVIEWED WITH SCORES <300  
(REMAIN IN OPEN STATUS)

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.



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101 MARIETTA STREET, N.W., SUITE 2900  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30333-1199  
~~REGION II TERMINATED SITES LIST~~

SITE STATUS REPORT

MAY 13, 1996

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: Jay L. Henson Phone: (404) 331-0344

In August, 1994, the former licensee **discovered that it possessed approximately** 500 pounds of uranium oxide MO.)' 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, 1994, HLC submitted their decommissioning plan for the facility. On January 9, 1994, 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.

HLC and its decommissioning contractor began decommissioning effort 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 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.



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REGION II TERMINATED SITES LIST  
101 MARIETTA STREET, N.W., SUITE 2900  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30323-0199  
SITE STATUS REPORT

MAY 13, 1996

Homer Laughlin China Company  
Newell, WV

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

## Assessment

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.



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101 MARINETTA STREET, N.W., SUITE 2500  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30323-0199  
SITE STATUS REPORT

MAY 13, 1995

Homer Laughlin China Company  
Newell, WV

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