

REGION II TERMINATED SITES LIST

SITE STATUS REPORT

SEPTEMBER 30, 1995

Docket No. N/ALicense No. C-05317Licensee Name: Knoxville Iron Company

Site Name: _____

Site Address: 1934 Tennessee AvenueCity: KnoxvilleState: TN

Zip: _____

Regional Contact: Jay L. HensonPhone: (404) 331-0344

Status Summary:

ORNL Final Score: 45

Background

- * On October 13, 1960, the Knoxville Iron Company was issued License No. C-05317 to receive possession of 1,000 tons of metal scrap containing not more than one-tenth of one percent uranium for use and in accordance with the procedures described in their application dated September 27, 1960. Knoxville Iron Company smelted metal scrap purchased from the National Lead Company, Cincinnati, Ohio, which contained the uranium. The slag produced in the operation was to remain the property of the Atomic Energy Commission. The metal obtained from the smelting was used to make reinforcing rods for concrete.
- * During an inspection conducted on March 7 and 21, 1961, an AEC inspector determined that the license was in possession of 20 tons of slag containing about 2% uranium (800 pounds total of uranium) and 762 tons of metal scrap containing approximately 0.06 percent uranium (914 pounds total of uranium).
- * The docket file contains no further information regarding the termination of the license or the disposition of materials possessed under the license.

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Knoxville Iron Co.
Knoxville, TN

License No. C-05317
Docket No. N/A

Assessment

The current owner of the former Knoxville Iron Co. (KIC) site is the Florida Steel Corporation. The site is also occupied by the David J. Joseph Company. The State of Tennessee Division of Radiological Health (DRH) was contacted to discuss this license and the current status of the facility.

Tennessee DRH personnel reviewed their records for the KIC and determined that the original license, License No. C-05317, expired on October 31, 1961, and was renewed by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) as License No. SUB-534, on February 19, 1962. License No. SUB-534 expired on February 28, 1965, and the AEC issued License No. SUB-824 to KIC on March 11, 1965, to replace the SUB-534 license. The SUB-824 license expired on March 31, 1968. It was at this time that the authority to regulate KIC's use of radioactive material and issue the license was transferred from the AEC to the State of Tennessee. The State of Tennessee issued License No. R-4729-D3 to the KIC on April 2, 1968, for the same or similar activities as KIC was previously licensed to perform by the AEC. Regulatory control and licensing authority for licensed activities conducted by KIC remained with the State of Tennessee thereafter.

Since the regulatory control and licensing authority for KIC's possession and use of radioactive material was transferred from the AEC to the State of Tennessee, the State of Tennessee had the regulatory authority to terminate the license and to determine if the site met the requirements for release for unrestricted use when KIC ceased licensed activities. Tennessee DRH personnel performed a limited radiological survey of the former KIC site on June 6, 1995. During the survey, DRH personnel identified a few areas of elevated radiation levels in the lower portion of the scrapyard. Further investigation of these spots determined that the elevated radiation levels were due to the presence of contaminated pieces of slag below the surface of the ground. Both DRH and Florida Steel personnel believed the material to be mill slag that was used for yard fill material, probably years ago, and that there were probably more hot spots scattered around the yard. DRH personnel reported that a preliminary isotopic analysis of samples of the slag indicate they are contaminated with uranium and its progeny. The State of Tennessee DRH continues to monitor the site and intends to resolve any safety and health issues associated with the former KIC site.

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Assessment

Since the regulatory control and licensing authority for the activities, materials and facilities authorized under AEC License No. C-05317 for the KIC was transferred to the State of Tennessee, it is recommended that the terminated sites status of License No. C-05317 be changed from "open" to "closed". The Tennessee DRH is assessing the radiological status of the former KIC site and will determine what further remediation of the site is necessary to meet the criteria for release of the site for unrestricted use. The Region II office has offered to assist the Tennessee DRH in their efforts to determine the suitability of the site for release for unrestricted use.