

November 26, 1997

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

FROM: Douglas M. Collins, Acting Director /s/
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	RII:DNMS	RII:DNMS	RII:DNMS					
SIGNATURE	<i>[Signature]</i>		<i>[Signature]</i>					
NAME	B Parker	Decker	Chosey					
DATE	10/31/97	10/21/97	10/20/97	10/ /97	10/ /97	10/ /97	10/ /97	10/ /97
COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES (NO)	YES NO				

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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

REGION II TERMINATED SITES
LIST
SITE STATUS REPORT

October 22,
1997

Docket No. 040-01957
00081

License No. SUB-

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

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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 I1 TERMINATED SITES
LIST
SITE STATUS REPORT**

October 22, 1997

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 I1 on September 28, 1994.

On November 4, 1994, Region I1 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 I1 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 I1 forwarded comments on the plan to HLC. HLC submitted a revised plan on January 10 and Region I1 approved the plan on January 12, 1995.

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 I1 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 I1 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 I1 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 I1 will continue to monitor HLC's decommissioning effort.

REGION II TERMINATED SITES LIST
SITE STATUS REPORT

October 22, 1997

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

October 22, 1997

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.