

November 8, 1996

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 (original signed by DM Collins)
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

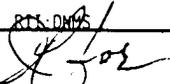
SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT OF REGION II REVIEW OF OAK RIDGE NATIONAL
LABORATORY (ORNL) LIST OF POTENTIALLY CONTAMINATED SITES

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 1 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 which Region II has reviewed and remain open are listed in Attachment 2. The status reports for those sites which are **recommended** for deletion are listed in Attachment 3. The sealed source files which have been reviewed and are recommended for deletion are listed in Attachment 4. The information required for the Monthly Information Status Report is in Attachment 5. A tabular summary of all files assigned to Region II is in Attachment 6.

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) Sealed Sources (recommend deletion)
(5) Monthly Information Status Report
(6) Tabular summary for all Region II sites

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

November 8, 1996

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Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

FROM: *for* Bruce S. Mallett, Director *BSM*
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

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STATUS REPORTS FOR SITES WITH SCORES <300
(RECOMMENDED FOR DELETION)

C-04345 Wheeling Tile Company

SITE STATUS REPORT

OCTOBER 23, 1996

Docket No. 040-03399

License No. C-04345

Licensee Name: Wheeling Tile Company

Site Name:

Site Address: 3107 Eoff Street

City: Wheeling

State: WV

Zip:

Regional Contact: Jay L. Henson

Phone: (404) 331-0344

Status Summary:

ORNL Final Score: 7

Background

License No. C-04345 was issued on October 10, 1958, for the possession of 2,000 pounds of depleted uranium for use as a coloring agent in glazes for ceramic manufacture.

In its application, the licensee described the facilities and processes involved in the production and use of the glaze containing the depleted uranium. Operations included weighing, milling in a wet ball mill, transfer of the glaze to a holding tank, and removal of increments of the glaze slurry for application to ceramic products by either hand dipping or spraying. The spraying would be conducted in a well ventilated spray hood equipped with a scrubber for recovering glaze entrained in the hood exhaust. The ceramic ware would be dried, loaded into kiln setters, fired in a kiln, unloaded, inspected and packaged. The licensee stated that periodic surveys with a portable survey instrument would be performed to determine the level of radiation at different points in the storage and processing areas. The licensee also indicated that traces of uranium from washing out of equipment would be well diluted with water prior to discharging to the sewer and that samples of effluents would be taken and monitored. The licensee stated that its experience prior to 1942 with normal uranium products showed that little uranium was lost in any of its operations.

The AEC planned to conduct an inspection of the licensee in December, 1958, but the licensee informed the AEC in November, 1958, that it had not obtained or used any depleted uranium under the license and had postponed its use of this material for a time.

SITE STATUS REPORT

OCTOBER 23, 1996

Wheeling Tile Company
3107 Eoff Street
Wheeling, WV

License No. C-04345
Docket No.

In June, 1959, the AEC issued an order amending the license to limit the content of uranium in glazes for ceramic tableware to **twenty percent**. The order also authorized the licensee to produce ceramic tiles glazed with uranium for the purpose of obtaining experimental data regarding the radiation levels associated therewith. It also defined ceramic tile to mean any piece of fired clay, stone, concrete or other material used in the construction or ornamentation of walls, partitions, floors, drains, or similar items; or in the construction or ornamentation of articles of furniture.

The retired docket file does not contain any information on the final disposition of the material, surveys performed by either the licensee or the AEC when the license was terminated or any document that indicates when the license was terminated. The license expiration date was October 31, 1960.

Assessment

RII contacted the current owner of the site where the Wheeling Tile Co. (WTC) was located. This individual stated that when WTC went out of business in the early 1960's, they sold all the equipment in the facility and sold the empty building to him.

RII conducted an inspection of the site on August 13, 1996. The inspector interviewed the current site owner, former WTC employees, and toured the site. Based upon the interviews, and information contained in the retired docket file (November 1958 licensee letter stating no material obtained and failure of licensee to respond to May, 1959 notification of AEC intent to amend license to limit use to experimental purposes), it is likely that WTC never obtained or possessed licensed material. The inspector also determined that the facility where licensed materials would have been used and stored had WTC ever possessed material had been demolished in the 1960's and replaced with a parking lot. The inspector's findings are described in NRC Inspection Report No. C-4345/96-01 (attached).

Based upon the above information, it is recommended that the terminated sites status for this site be changed from "open" to "closed".