

National Aeronautics and Space
Administration

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- DDChamberlain
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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

November 4, 1999

Patrick S. Muldoon
Radiation Safety Officer
National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Ames Research Center
M/S 218-1
Moffett Field, California 94035-1000

SUBJECT: TERMINATED LICENSE REVIEW

Dear Mr. Muldoon:

On October 20, 1999, the NRC concluded its review of a formerly licensed site previously located at 2349 Charleston Road in Mt. View, California. Details of this review are provided in the enclosure to this letter.

In summary, the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) authorized the use of byproduct materials at the Charleston Road facility for research and development activities during 1962-1965. This site had been specifically identified during an Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) review because the associated docket file may have contained inadequate decommissioning documentation. Although the site was decommissioned in 1965, the ORNL reviewer felt that there was inadequate information in the docket file regarding what radioactive materials had been used at the facility.

The NRC has determined that: (1) the Charleston Road facility had been demolished on or before 1992; (2) you contacted several individuals who previously worked at the facility and these individuals could not clearly recall which radionuclides, other than perhaps carbon-14 and hydrogen-3 (Tritium), had been used at facility; and (3) documentation in the docket file specifically mentions that a final radiological survey was conducted, in part, for identification of potential residual carbon-14 and hydrogen-3 contamination in the building.

The NRC has concluded that no health or safety currently exists at the former Charleston Road location because the final radiological survey did consider the use of hydrogen-3 and carbon-14 at the facility. The building was released for unrestricted use following decommissioning in 1965. Since the final survey considered the use of hydrogen-3 and carbon-14, the NRC does not intend to take any further action with regard to this formerly licensed site.

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If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact D. Blair Spitzberg, Ph.D., Chief, Fuel Cycle and Decommissioning Branch, at (817) 860-8191 or Mr. Robert Evans at (817) 860-8234.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dwight D. Chamberlain".

Dwight D. Chamberlain, Director
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No.: 030-03656
License No.: 04-07845-01(terminated)

Enclosure: Site Status Report

cc: California Radiation Control Program Director

National Aeronautics and Space
Administration

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ENCLOSURE

Site Status Report

Final ORNL Site Score: 132

Docket No. 030-03656

License No. 04-07845-01

Licensee Name: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Site Name: Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California 94035

Site Address: 2349 Charleston Road, Mt. View, California 94043

Regional Contact: Robert Evans, P.E., Health Physicist
Nuclear Materials Inspection Branch
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety
Region IV

Status Summary:

Byproduct Materials License 04-07845-01 was issued to NASA during December 1961 to support research and development activities. During October 1962, the AEC revised the license to include a building located at 2349 Charleston Road as an authorized place of use. At that time, the radioactive materials authorized by the license included any byproduct material with atomic numbers between 3 and 83 in any form with a 500 millicurie (per radionuclide) limit. Additional radionuclides authorized by the license with different quantity limits included hydrogen-3, carbon-14, strontium-85, cobalt-60, iridium-192, and cesium-137. The facility was apparently leased by NASA only for temporary laboratory space. The AEC removed the Charleston Road facility from the license during December 1965 following completion of decommissioning activities. License 04-07845-01 was subsequently terminated by the NRC during May 1987.

Although decommissioning records were located in the docket file for the Charleston Road site, the ORNL reviewer determined that additional information about the licensee's activities were needed in order to properly assess whether the licensee's 1965 survey was adequate to release the facility for unrestricted use. An NRC inspector contacted the current NASA Ames Research Center Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) in an attempt to gather more information regarding the activities that took place in the Charleston Road facility. (NASA currently possesses NRC Materials License 04-07845-04.) The RSO was unable to locate any additional records regarding the Charleston Road facility. Further, the RSO contacted former employees who worked at the facility, and none could recall using any radionuclide other than perhaps carbon-14 and hydrogen-3.

The inspector visited the site of the former Charleston Road facility. The current occupants of the property consisted of a Costco warehouse store and adjacent parking lot that occupied almost 1-square city block. The inspector learned that the Costco building had been

constructed in 1992; therefore, the building previously located at 2349 Charleston Road had been demolished during or before 1992.

In conclusion, **Region IV recommends the closure of this terminated site file.** The Charleston Road facility had been demolished and a new building constructed which prevents the performance of an independent NRC confirmatory survey of the old structure. Further, the Ames Research Center RSO did not have additional information to supplement the docket file records, and former employees did not clearly recall using any radioactive materials other than maybe hydrogen-3 and carbon-14 which were considered in the ORNL review of this docket file. Since the final survey considered the use of hydrogen-3 and carbon-14, no further action is recommended for this site.