

September 20, 1976

E. K. Loop, Chief, Process Facilities Safety Branch, DSSC-HQ

REPORT OF FINDINGS: AL-TECH SPECIALTY STEEL CORPORATION

On August 19, 1976, Fred F. Haywood, ORNL, and I visited the Al-Tech plant in Watervliet, New York, to make a preliminary assessment of the radiological status of facilities utilized during 1950-51 for AEC contract work involving uranium. Discussions were held with Mr. Donald McCarter, Plant Manager. Mr. Ted Owens, who was familiar with the subject work, assisted in identifying involved plant areas. Following is a statement of findings:

Operations History. The company, known as Allegheny-Ludlum at the time of the contract, rolled uranium billets to solid rods. The operation was on a developmental rather than a production scale. The contract called for return to the AEC of all uranium-bearing material and any scrap generated in the operation. More definitive information on quantities of uranium processed is not available. AEC operations were reportedly limited to the 14-inch rolling mill and an annealing furnace and were conducted only on weekends. Primary purpose of the contract was to develop design criteria for the planned Fernald rolling mill.

Current Status of Facilities. The 14-inch mill was removed in 1960 to a Dunkirk, New York plant. The area where the mill operated in 1950-51 was located and is now used for metal and roller storage. The annealing furnace is still in use but could be any one of four electric furnaces. Furnace liner material has been replaced several times in the interim. The building housing the operation has been rearranged and expanded significantly since 1951.

Preliminary Survey Findings. Alpha and Beta-gamma survey measurements were made on surfaces in the involved areas. Measurements were also made in the company disposal yard. The yard was being mined during the past three years for metal value recovery resulting in the resurrection of materials; i.e., furnace liner bricks, previously covered by many years of waste disposal. Surveys detected no radiation levels above naturally occurring background.

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Evaluation and Conclusions. Since no elevated radioactivity was detected and since only uranium was handled, and that on a limited developmental scale, it is concluded that any radioactive residual from AEC contract operation is insignificant and further surveys are not required.

Recommendation. It is recommended that further surveys not be made.

The company has had several inquiries from local press since the ERDA Resurvey Program was made public in May 1976 and requests that if a radiation clearance can be given for Al-Tech facilities that this information be communicated by ERDA to local press.

OR-PIO has prepared a press release, copy enclosed, and will issue in the Albany, New York area upon receipt of HQ concurrence with the above recommendation.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
W. L. THORNTON

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OSH:nTT

Enclosure: ✓ CFF
Press Release

cc: J. H. Range, PIO
CK W. H. Travis, S&EC

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