



UNITED STATES  
ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

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March 7, 1977

Assistant Director for Health Protection, DSSC-HQ  
ATTN: R. H. Kennedy, DSSC-HQ

ERDA RESURVEY PROGRAM - AMERICAN BRASS, WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT

By memorandum from E. K. Loop to W. H. Travis dated May 4, 1976, a site identified as "American Brass Company, Watertown, Massachusetts" was assigned to OR for review. Our investigation revealed no such company in Watertown, Massachusetts; however, American Brass in Waterbury, Connecticut, was subsequently located from old correspondence between HASL and SRO. American Brass did limited work with copper clad uranium billets under subcontract with Nuclear Metals, Inc., a SRO contractor during the 1950s.

Based on telephone discussions with Mr. Paul Lowenstein who was principal contact at NMI on the SRO contract and who is still with NMI, it was determined that fewer than 50 billets were extruded at American Brass and the cladding successfully prevented the spread of any significant uranium contamination. The operation was surveyed by HASL and documented in the memo report dated December 2, 1959, copy enclosed, which confirmed the insignificance of surface contamination.

American Brass is now known as Anaconda Company, Brass Division, located at 414 Meadow Street, Waterbury, Connecticut. Company officials were contacted but could provide essentially no information on the work.

Conclusion:

Since the work with uranium was limited and the contamination potential of the operation was deemed insignificant based on HASL surveys, it is concluded that no further ERDA surveys are required.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that American Brass be dropped from the resurvey program. No confirmatory letter to the company is considered necessary since this site was not one of those identified in the press.

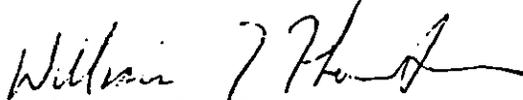


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In regard to the AEC-SRO contract work at NMI, according to Lowenstein that work was done under appropriate AEC regulatory license at the time and similar work is presently continuing under NRC license SMB-179.



William T. Thornton  
Health Protection Branch  
Safety and Environmental Control Division

OSH:WTT

Enclosure:  
Cy Memo, 12/2/59, HG to AJB

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