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Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20545

OCT 13 1987

Dr. Keith Schiager, Director
Radiological Health
University of Utah
100 O.S.H. Building
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112

Dear Dr. Schiager:

As you may know, the Department of Energy (DOE) is evaluating the radiological condition of sites that were utilized under the Manhattan Engineer District and the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) during the early years of nuclear development to determine whether they need remedial action and whether the Department has authority to perform such action. Two sites under your jurisdiction were investigated under this program. Mr. W. A. McKinney, University of Utah, was notified in 1979 by letter from Dr. W. E. Mott, DOE, that the Bureau of Mines portion of the school grounds was being considered as one such site, and Mr. Downard of your office was notified by letter dated March 13, 1979 (Mott to Downard) that certain portions of the University of Utah were being considered.

In the first instance, the Bureau of Mines conducted research studies on small amounts of uranium in order to develop a process for the recovery of uranium from various types of ore. The facility was turned over to your University in the mid-1980's, after the facility was scheduled for cleanup by the Bureau. In regard to the second area, a survey conducted in 1977 found no detectable activity above background, except in small room used to store radioactive material. This room was used for radiation therapy at the time of the survey, and it contained several radiation-producing devices. The survey team recommended no further surveys be performed.

This letter, along with the enclosed summary reports and supporting information, represents the results of the Department's review to determine if the sites contain residual radioactive contamination traceable to the actions conducted on behalf of the AEC. The report is provided to you as the representative of the sites owner, for your information. On the basis of the review, the Department has determined that no potential exists for significant amounts of residual radioactive material derived from activities conducted for the AEC to remain at these sites. As a result, the sites were eliminated from further consideration under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). This package was prepared as the final DOE action on both of these sites under FUSRAP.

Documentation supporting the Department's decision will be available for public review at the Department's Public Reading Room located in Room

1E-190 of the Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.,
Washington, D.C.

If you have any questions regarding this decision or the availability of
the material at the reading room, please contact Andrew Wallo of my staff
at 301-353-5439.

Sincerely,

JS

James J. Fiore, Director
Division of Facility and Site
Decommissioning Projects
Office of Nuclear Energy

Enclosures

cc:
Mr. Larry F. Anderson, Director
Bureau of Radiation Control
Department of Health
P.O. Box 1690
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116-0690

bcc:
W. Cottrell, ORNL, w/o enclosures
Aerospace, w/enclosures

NE-20 RF
NE-23 RF
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U.S. BUREAU OF MINES
Salt Lake City, Utah

Site Function

The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) work performed at this site began in 1948 and involved the development of processes for uranium recovery from various types of ore. In addition, a small pilot plant was operated at this site. Currently, it houses the University of Utah's Metallurgy Research Center.

Site Description

The site is located adjacent to the University of Utah, Salt Lake City (see attached figure) and consists of a multistory concrete building. The building contains offices, analytical laboratories, and a pilot plant for uranium recovery.

Owner History

The facility was an active research facility using uranium until mid-1980 and was owned and operated by the U.S. Bureau of Mines. The site was turned over to the University of Utah in mid-1980 for use as an energy research laboratory.

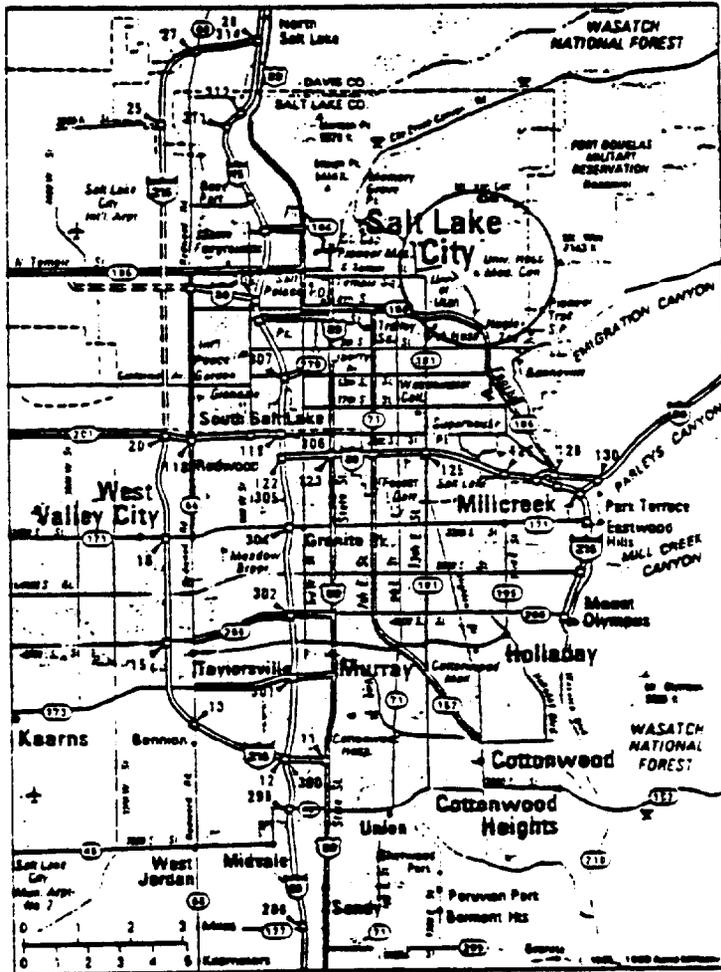
Radiological History and Status

Since termination of the AEC work, research on uranium recovery by the Bureau of Mines continued. The work was being performed under the general licensing authority of Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 40.22, which limits the volume of material to less than 150 pounds per year, with a maximum of 15 pounds per shipment, similar to the quantities sent during the AEC contract work.

On November 28, 1977, representatives from the Department of Energy (DOE) Chicago Operations Office and Argonne National Laboratory performed a screening survey of various parts of the facility used in the AEC work. Some small areas of the facility were found to have observable levels of contamination. However, this facility was an active research facility using uranium under a general Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) license and was monitored by a radiation protection officer. No detailed DOE radiological survey was considered necessary, because any contamination due to AEC work would be indistinguishable from contamination resulting from current activities covered under the license, and requirements for decontamination would be the responsibility of NRC.

The facility was turned over to the University of Utah in mid-1980 for use as an energy research laboratory after the Bureau of Mines moved to a new research facility. In anticipation of this event, the Bureau of Mines performed a comprehensive radiological survey to identify specific areas of contamination to define the scope of work for a contract to survey and decontaminate those areas. The required work was conducted by the bureau and verified by NRC under its licensing authority.

The site has been eliminated from consideration for inclusion in the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program. The final elimination report was completed in fiscal year 1987.



U.S. Bureau of Mines Site
at University of Utah Campus



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF MINES
Salt Lake City Metallurgy Research Center
1600 EAST FIRST SOUTH STREET

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84112

March 28, 1979

W. A. McKinney
Ramsey/Alu
Aerospace

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BC 8877

Mr. William E. Mott
Acting Director
Environmental Control
Technology Division
Department of Energy
Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Mr. Mott:

This is in response to your letter of March 13, 1979 addressed to Don Seidel, Research Supervisor. As per your request, we have reviewed the draft preliminary summary describing work conducted at this facility for the AEC. The only area in which we can supply additional information is that of "Category and Status."

This facility is to be turned over to the University of Utah in mid-1980 for use as an energy research laboratory when the Bureau of Mines occupies a new research facility presently under construction. In anticipation of this event, the Bureau of Mines recently performed a comprehensive radiological survey to determine specific areas of contamination for the purpose of developing the scope of work for a contract to survey and decontaminate those identified areas. This contract should be advertised and awarded within the next six months.

A minimal amount of uranium is utilized in our current research program and this work is limited to one small laboratory.

If you have need for further information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

W. A. McKinney

W. A. McKinney
Research Director



Department of Energy
Chicago Operations Office
9800 South Cass Avenue
Argonne, Illinois 60439

DEC 23 1977

James L. Liverman, Acting Assistant
Secretary for Environment, HQ

BUREAU OF MINES - UTAH

On November 28, 1977, Edward J. Jascewsky, Department of Energy (DOE), and Walter H. Smith, Argonne National Laboratory (ANL), visited the U. S. Bureau of Mines Metallurgy Research Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. The purpose of the visit was to discuss the past operations at the facility that involved work under an Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) contract during the early 1950's. The work performed involved the development of processes for uranium recovery from various types of ore. In addition, a small pilot plant was operated at this site. Discussions were held with William A. McKinney, Research Director, Don Seidel, Research Supervisor, John Baur, Radiation Protection Officer, and Chester Jensen, Physical Science Technician. Since the termination of the AEC work the research on uranium recovery has continued by the Bureau of Mines. The work is presently being performed under the general licensing authority of 10 CFR 40.22, which limits the volume of material to less than 150 pounds per year with a maximum of 15 pounds per shipment. Similar quantities were used during the AEC contract work.

A cursory radiation survey of various parts of the facility used in the AEC work was performed by Messrs. Jascewsky and Smith. The instruments used were an Eberline gas proportional counter (PAC 4G-3) and an Eberline end window geiger-muller detector (Model E-530). Some small areas of the facility were found with observable levels of contamination. No levels were found that could be considered a hazard to any of the occupants of the facility. This activity could be a result of present research activities since uranium work is still in progress.

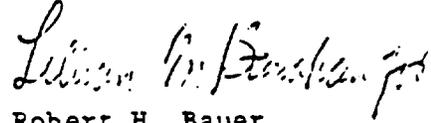
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James L. Liverman

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DEC 23 1977

Based on the fact that this facility is still an active research facility using uranium, and the facility is being monitored by the organization Radiation Protection Officer, I recommend that no detailed radiological survey be performed by the DOE/ANL resurvey team.



Robert H. Bauer
Manager

SD:EJJ

cc: R. Wynveen, ANL
W. Smith, ANL
D. C. Seidel, Bureau of Mines
W. E. Mott, ECT, HQ