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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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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
Robert H. Bauer
Manager

SD:EJJ

cc: R. Wynveen, ANL
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