



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

DEC 28 1977

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

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

On November 29, 1977, Edward J. Jascewsky, Department of Energy (DOE), and Walter H. Smith, Argonne National Laboratory (ANL), visited the University of Utah's Medical Research Center and the School of Mines. The purpose of the visit was to discuss the past operations at these facilities that involved work under an Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) contract during the early 1950's. Personnel visited at the University of Utah were Dr. Dennis Leavitt, Medical Physicist, and Richard Downard, Radiological Health Department.

The work at the Medical Research Center involved animal inhalation studies involving uranium dust. The work involved use of a small basement area of the hospital. This area was completely surveyed by Messrs. Jascewsky and Smith using an Eberline gas proportional counter (PAC-4G-3) and an Eberline end window geiger-mueller detector (Model E-530). The results of the survey indicated no detectable activity above background except in the small room (4 feet by 4 feet), which is used to store their radioactive material. A radium incident had occurred in this area. The levels found on the floor in this area were above background with a maximum of several hundred counts per minute above background. The present use of this basement area is for radiation therapy and contains several radiation producing devices. No AEC contract number for the inhalation studies work could be found.

The other area reviewed involved work under AEC Contract AT(49-1)-633. The work involved studies on processing of uranium ores. Three laboratory rooms (109, 201, and 221) in the old Mines Building were the areas where the work was performed. A survey of Rooms 201 and 221 was performed by the resurvey team, and no activity above background was detected. Room 109 was not accessible for surveys during the visit. Mr. Downard, the Radiation Safety Officer, agreed to survey this area within the next few days using the same type of equipment that would be used by the survey team. Results of his survey is attached to this memo.

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Mr. Downard informed us that the particular area was used for thorium research after the uranium activity was completed. Upon completion of the thorium work, he performed a complete radiological survey and cleanup of the area. This final survey will be provided to the Chicago Operations Office if a copy can be found.

Based upon the information from Mr. Downard and the surveys performed by Messrs. Jascewsky and Smith, I recommend that no further radiological surveys be performed by the DOE/ANL resurvey team.

Robert H. Bauer for
Robert H. Bauer
Manager

SD:EJJ

Enclosure:
University of Utah Survey

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