



Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management

JUL 10 2008

Alonso Ramirez, Scientific Director
El Verde Research Station
Institute for Tropical Ecosystem Studies
University of Puerto Rico
P.O. Box 21910
San Juan, PR 00931

Subject: Regulatory Status of Study Area 4

Dear Dr. Ramirez:

I want to thank you and your staff, especially John Bithorn for taking time to escort us to Study Area 4 several weeks ago.

While planning the visit to the El Verde Research Station, we mentioned that the radioactive materials license for the tree in Study Area 4 was terminated. Termination was based on radiological conditions meeting criteria for protectiveness. At that time, we sent by email the application to amend the University of Puerto Rico radioactive materials license, which we developed for Dr. Renaud to remove the tree from the license.

Because the tree is no longer regulated and has been released for unrestricted use, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) no longer requires formal access to or control of the tree. Therefore, DOE will not renew an access agreement with the U.S. Forest Service. Furthermore, access to the tree is unrestricted. We confirmed that the warning signs have been removed from the fence. The lock may be removed as well. DOE will no longer maintain the fence, and it may also be removed.

DOE will have an ongoing role at the site, consisting of maintaining records and responding to stakeholder inquiries. Please contact me with any questions or to refer others to me who want more information about historical activities at the site that were sponsored by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. I can be reached at (412) 386-4754 or at jcraig@lm.doe.gov. You may also reach the DOE Office of Legacy Management by calling (970) 248-6070.

Sincerely,

Jack Craig
Site Manager

JUL 10 2008

cc:

P. Cruz, USFS

T. Pauling, DOE

S. Schiesswohl, DOE

✓ M. Miller, Stoller

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