

7-4-78
~~SECRET~~
1.4.5

JAN 3 1978

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

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA

On December 6, 1977, Edward J. Jascowsky, Department of Energy (DOE), and Walter E. Smith, Argonne National Laboratory (ANL), visited the University of Nevada, Mackay School of Mines. The purpose of the visit was to discuss the past operations of these facilities under Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), Contract AT (49-1)-624, which involved process development studies on various types of uranium ores. Discussions were held with Dr. Arthur Baker III, Dean, and Mr. Larry Franks, Radiation Safety Officer.

Discussion with Dr. Baker established that work with uranium ore is still being performed in the areas where the AEC work was performed.

A cursory survey of the facility was performed by Messrs. Jascowsky and Smith. The instruments used were an Eberline gas proportional counter (PAC-4G-3) and an Eberline end window geiger-mueller detector (Model E-530). No radioactivity levels above background were found except on pieces of uranium ore, a drum labeled "High Sulfur Ore," and two small spots (one in a sink and one on the floor-area less than one square foot). The determination of whether these spots resulted from the original AEC work or from present operation could not be made. No radiological hazard is envisioned from the levels monitored.

Discussion with Mr. Franks indicates that the present use of the natural uranium ores is probably being performed under the University's license issued by the State of Nevada. No one was able to determine the origin of the drum of sulfur ore. Mr. Franks and Dr. Baker agreed to determine the exact contents of the drum and stated they would dispose of the material properly since it was of no need in their present program.

0511-8V

Based on the facts that the survey team's effort found only two small spots above background which offered no hazard to personnel or the environment, that the facility still handles uranium ores, and that there is a Radiation Safety Officer associated with the operation, I recommend no further surveys be performed by the DOE/ANL resurvey team.

SD:EJJ

Robert H. Bauer
Manager

cc: R. Wynveen, ANL
W. Smith, ANL
A. Baker, University of Nevada
W. E. Mott, ECT, HQ

bc: OM

OFFICE	SAFETY	SAFETY	SAFETY	OM		
SURNAME	Jascewsky/kp	Shipp	Moser	Bauer		
DATE	12/27/77	12/25/77	12/29/77	12/22/78		