

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 10, 2010 4:15 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Fwd: Building 401

[REDACTED]

EPA is in the process of doing an investigation on the matter of the air discharge and compliance with the rad NESHAPs rule. The investigation is ongoing. As information that might be relevant to the NFSS/LOOW activities becomes available they will be provided as appropriate. I have already discussed this very preliminarily with [REDACTED] of the USACE and with [REDACTED],

While the investigation is ongoing and no conclusions have been reached, it appears that the air release did not cause a threat to public health, safety, or the environment.

[REDACTED]
Radiation & Indoor Air Branch
U.S. EPA Region 2
290 Broadway
New York, NY 10007-1866

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Date: 12/10/2010 03:56 PM
Subject: Fwd: Building 401

[REDACTED],

What information is available regarding the EPA investigation into the recent accidental air discharge, associated with SPRU building demolition, at KAPL? What contaminants were detected and at what concentration? The community has been concerned about the demolition of Building 401 because of the past storage of radioactive KAPL SPRU waste in the building and subsequent detections of plutonium and americium-241 within the building.

[REDACTED].

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
CC: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12/10/2010 2:20:37 P.M. Central Standard Time
Subj: Re: Building 401

Hello [REDACTED],
[REDACTED] forwarded your inquiry re: KAPL to me as he is not directly involved at that site.

Re: current status, you are correct that decommissioning work has been halted. DEC Region 4 office issued an NOV to KAPL for the water discharges through their SPDES discharge point from SPRU.
All SPRU site surface and groundwater is now being trucked off-site for treatment and disposal as KAPL will not allow SPRU to utilize their SPDES discharge points any longer.
EPA is investigating the air discharge that lead to the worker shoe contamination.
Work will not recommence until EPA is satisfied that they have appropriately addressed the air discharge issues, the contractor satisfies DOE that their administrative and operational controls and procedures have been updated appropriately, and both SPRU buildings are enclosed in sprung structures (reinforced tent-like buildings similar to those used at West Valley for waste storage).

Both the DOE and contractor have brought in staff from other sites previously uninvolved with SPRU to help address the weaknesses in the controls that became apparent as a result of the recent incidents. Thankfully we do not appear to be dealing with a worker or public exposure problem. While there was a detection of contamination on the soles of four workers boots upon exiting the work area, that is the extent of worker contamination. In addition, to date none of the 100+ bioassays done on site workers have shown any positive results. That's not to say that the problems they have been having are in any way routine or acceptable, just that human exposure concerns do not appear to have been an outcome.

Initial analyses of water samples from the sump that overflowed to a drainage pathway to the Mohawk River included gamma spec and gross alpha and gross beta. From that analysis it is conservatively estimated that a release of 7.2 uCi of Cs/Sr and 0.045 uCi of U/Pu occurred.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Radiological Sites Section
NYSDEC
625 Broadway, 9th floor
Albany, NY12233-7255
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

>>> [REDACTED] > 12/10/10 2:27 PM >>>

[REDACTED],

Thanks for the photograph. Personally, I would have liked to have seen the building preserved, but realize the contaminated status of the building could have been problematic for future use. Which reminds me, does NYSDEC have any information on the recent exposure incidents at the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory (KAPL) site at Schenectady, caused by the hasty demolition of the Separations Process Research Unit (SPRU) buildings? I understand the project there has been halted after safety was compromised, the contractor reportedly having been more concerned with meeting demolition deadlines than worker and public safety. Any further information on the specific KAPL waste contaminants released or the levels of contamination involved would be of interest, since radioactive contamination in Building 401 is likely associated with storage of radioactive wastes generated by the KAPL SPRU.

Many Thanks,

[REDACTED].

In a message dated 12/10/2010 9:27:22 A.M. Central Standard Time,
[REDACTED] writes:

[REDACTED] forwarded me the attached picture of Building 401.

Not much left of the old girl.

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: FOUO

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE