



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

February 3, 2006

Don T. Riley, MGEN, USA
Director of Civil Works
HQ, US Army Corps of Engineers
441 G St, NW
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000

Dear General Riley:

I am writing to notify you that the current owner of the former Superior Steel Company site in Carnegie, Pennsylvania, (Superbolt, Inc.) has, with the knowledge and support of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and regional representatives of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), requested assistance in arranging for cleanup of residual radioactive material on the site under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP).

Although copies of the contract have not been found, historical records indicate that June 27, 1952, was the effective date of the AEC contract with the former Superior Steel Company. The scope of work included the rolling and machining of flat plates of uranium metal into strips used as the cores of fuel elements. The contract was terminated on or about September 30, 1957. The facilities owned and operated by Superior Steel during the mid-1950s are located in the area currently occupied by the Carnegie Industrial Park on Superior and Hammond Streets, Scott Township, Pennsylvania. The large steel structure that housed the uranium processing areas is currently owned by Superbolt, Incorporated. The report of the preliminary site survey conducted in 1980 by personnel of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) is available on the Department of Energy (Legacy Management) web page at <http://csd.gjo.doe.gov>. The document number is PA.03-4. A more current description of the site (about 25 acres bounded on the north, west and south by Chartiers Creek and on the east by Superior Street) and the building in which the contract work was performed is included in the May 2001 Radiological Scoping Survey report prepared for the NRC, Region I, by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) (copy attached).

This site was previously considered for cleanup under FUSRAP. The preliminary radiological survey conducted at the site by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in 1980 found evidence of residual uranium contamination in several areas of the remaining structures on the site. However, due to site conditions limiting access to suspected areas of contamination and other factors, consideration for cleanup under FUSRAP did not proceed beyond the preliminary survey. More detailed characterizations of the site have since been conducted. The scoping survey conducted in 2001 by ORISE served to confirm the continued presence of residual uranium contamination and provide the information necessary to develop a more comprehensive characterization plan for the site. Mr. Allen Steinbock, the Vice President of Superbolt, Inc. can be reached at (412) 279-1149.



In addition to the work performed for the AEC, Superior Steel Corporation was licensed in 1956 to "...receive possession of and/or title to unlimited quantities of thorium metal for rolling and cutting." The purpose of the license was to receive source material (thorium metal) from another commercial licensee and to process the metal into the desired shape.

Section III.D.1. of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the DOE and the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the program administration and execution of the FUSRAP provides that DOE:

- a. Shall perform historical research and provide a FUSRAP eligibility determination, with historical references, as to whether a site was used for activities which supported the Nation's early atomic energy program;
- b. Shall provide the Army Corps of Engineers with the determination, a description of the type of processes involved in the historical activities at the site, the geographic boundaries of those activities (as reflected by documentation available to DOE), and the potential radioactive and/or chemical contaminants at the site; and,
- c. Shall maintain records of determination of eligibility and other files, documents and records associated with the site.

In accordance with the MOU and the request from Superbolt, the DOE has conducted additional historical research and revisited the 1985 determination regarding the inclusion of the site in FUSRAP. The results of the research confirm that this site was used for activities that supported the Nation's early atomic energy program and is eligible for inclusion in FUSRAP. Any residual radioactive contamination from commercial operations involving thorium metal is not considered eligible for FUSRAP cleanup. Additional radiological characterization under Section III.D.2 of the MOU is necessary to determine the need for cleanup at the site to address the FUSRAP-related contamination. Additional relevant historical documents will be furnished under separate cover.

We appreciate the Corps' assistance and will continue to work cooperatively with your staff in carrying out the terms of the MOU. Please contact Christopher Clayton of my staff at (202) 586-9034 if you need further information in this matter.

Sincerely,



Michael W. Owen
Director
Office of Legacy Management

Enclosure

cc: Sharon Wagner, CECW-IP
HQ, US Army Corps of Engineers
441 G St, NW
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000