January 11, 1990

In reply refer to 90RC-00791

Mr. A. J. Adduci
Project Manager
Nuclear Energy Division
U. S. Department of Energy
San Francisco Operations Office
1333 Broadway
Oakland, California 94612

Subject: DOE Authority for Release of Certain Facilities at SSFL

Dear Mr. Adduci:

At the start of research with nuclear materials at SSFL, the Atomics International operations were conducted under the authority of the Chicago Operations Office (COO) of (then) AEC. All work performed for COO was considered to be exempt from licensing. Upon transfer of the Atomics International programs to the San Francisco Operations Office (SAN), only those operations conducted on government-optioned land were judged to be exempt. This transition left four facilities in an undefined status:

T005 - the uranium carbide pilot plant
This facility used enriched uranium, but had ceased operation prior to the transfer from COO to SAN. The exhaust ventilation system and some below-grade drain lines are contaminated and must be removed before the facility is suitable for release for use without radiological restrictions.

T373 - the first SNAP critical facility
This was a critical experiment laboratory for SNAP reactors and was shut down and cleaned out long before the transfer from COO to SAN. It was thoroughly surveyed in 1988 and the results of this survey were reported in ETEC Report GEN-ZR-0012. It is suitable for release for use without radiological restrictions.
T886 - Sodium Disposal Facility
The "Old Sodium Burn Pit" is contaminated with low concentrations of old mixed fission products and very small amounts of enriched uranium associated with zirconium pieces from cleanup of the SNAP fuel fabrication facility.

T009 - OMR/SGR Critical Facility
Critical assemblies were tested here for the AEC Civilian Power Demonstration Program. The facility has been decontaminated with the exception of some areas currently in use for Rocketdyne projects using radioactive materials.

Since DOE has the responsibility for decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) of these facilities, and the facilities do not fall under the cognizance of any active DOE contract, we would be willing to have these facilities added to the "site" under contract DE-AC03-76-SF00700 in order to facilitate the completion of the D&D including release for unrestricted use.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please call G.L. Gaylord at FTS 929-5332.

Very truly yours,

R. T. Lancet
Director
Nuclear Safety & Licensing
Direct questions to ZIA Information Analysis Group at 415-288-4500.

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