

Walter Kovlick
Director
Office of Emergency and Remediation Response
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, SW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Luftig:

This letter is to inform the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is authorizing release of land for unrestricted use at the General Services Administration (GSA) site, located in Watertown, Massachusetts.

The staff is providing this information to EPA in accordance with NRC policy contained in the "Action Plan to Ensure Timely Cleanup of Site Decommissioning Management Plan Sites" (57 FR 13389), which states that NRC will inform EPA about specific decommissioning actions at Site Decommissioning Management Plan (SDMP) sites.

The GSA property, located in Watertown, MA, was a parcel of the former Watertown Arsenal used by the U.S. Army for depleted uranium (DU) munition operations authorized under Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) License No. SUB-238. From 1955-1966, an area northeast of the Arsenal site (now identified as the GSA property) was designated for stabilization of DU scrap from Arsenal activities. Contamination of soil resulted from spillage of the DU fragments and burned material during transport. Portions of the Watertown Arsenal site and adjoining Mall property have been previously remediated. The site currently is managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District.

The GSA site was placed on the SDMP list because it contained residual amounts of DU contaminated soil. Since the site was placed on the SDMP, large amounts of contaminated soil were removed from the site. The USACE has supplied, and NRC has reviewed, site characterization and dose assessment information. A conservative dose assessment, which incorporates site-specific data recently supplied by the USACE and reviewed by NRC, demonstrates that the unrestricted release criteria in 10 CFR 20.1402 have been met. Based on NRC's review of the dose assessment and confirmatory measurements, NRC concludes that the site is suitable for release for unrestricted use, and the site will be removed from the SDMP.

Based on the staff's evaluations of the USACE and NRC staff surveys, the staff concluded that the residual radioactivity at this site does not exceed the criteria in the recently completed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with USEPA. Therefore, the staff did not consult with USEPA on this site pursuant to the MOU.

W. Kovlick

The project manager for the GSA site is Craig Z. Gordon. If you have any questions on this matter, please contact him at (610) 337-5216.

Docket No. 040-02253
License No. none
Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Ronald R. Bellamy, Chief
Decommissioning and Laboratory Branch
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety