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MEM 10/31/86

Mr. R. J. Spence
Department of Energy, Oak Ridge Operations
Post Office Box E
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

Dear Mr. Spence:

Elza Warehouse Activities Before 1972

In response to your letter dated September 19, 1986, a review of the use of the Elza Warehouse site has been made by interviewing personnel who were involved in the activities there. The area was used as a surplus property sales area and storage warehouse in the 1950s and up through 1972 when it was transferred to the city of Oak Ridge. During this time, a variety of equipment and materials from all three Oak Ridge plants were apparently stored temporarily either in the four warehouses or in an adjacent field. This equipment included surplus machine tools, electrical equipment from the stripping of the Calutron Electromagnetic Separation processes at Y-12, and other miscellaneous materials and equipment.

The electrical equipment from the Calutrons was investigated further. During the stripping of the process, several hundred of the electrical "cubicles" were apparently taken to the storage yard at Elza. These cubicles contained sealed capacitors which were filled with pyranol, the dielectric fluid containing Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) manufactured by General Electric Corporation. Each cubicle also contained several transformers which contained oil with 200-500 ppm of PCB (based on sampling of remaining cubicle transformers in 9201-3). In total, each cubicle probably contained 500 to 1,000 gallons of PCB and oils containing PCB.

At Elza the cubicles were sold, scavenged for parts, or returned to the plant site for sale as scrap metal. People interviewed had recollections of oil being drained from transformers or being retrieved from transformers in storage for use in the plants. Although no one interviewed had specific knowledge of large spills, leaking transformers, or similar incidents, no one could rule out the possibility that such incidents occurred.

APPROVAL FOR RELEASE

Document: # Unnumbered (2 pages); Date 10/24/86 ;
Title/Subject Letter, GG Fe to RJ Spence (DOE-ORO),

"Elza Warehouse Activities before 1972"

Approval for unrestricted release of this document is authorized by the Oak Ridge K-25 Site Classification and Information Control Office, Martin Marietta Energy Systems, Inc., PO Box 2003, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-7307.

Kevin Strait

1/29/93

K-25 Classification & Information Control Officer

Date

#508

October 24, 1986

The question of uranium contamination of the area was addressed in 1971 prior to release of the site. At that time, a radiation survey and clean-up project was performed to remove contaminated soils and decontaminate the floors in the warehouses. A report of this work was made in a letter from J. M. Case, Y-12 Plant Superintendent, to C. A. Keller, United States Atomic Energy Commission, "Radiation Survey - Elza Gate Property Sales Area," dated November 4, 1971.

This information summarizes the recollections of several people who were involved in the stripping of the electromagnetic separation process and the Elza Warehouse operations. No written records of sales or inventories at the warehouse have been located at this time.

Additional questions may be addressed to H. L. Fellers at 6-8115.

Very truly yours,

for 
Gordon G. Fee
Vice President and
Y-12 Plant Manager

GGF:HLFellers:ssh

cc: J. K. Bailey
G. G. Fee
H. L. Fellers - NoRC
H. W. Hibbitts, DOE-ORO (2)
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Document Number 801313

Access Number of Document _____ Date of Document 10/24/86

(This section to be completed by Derivative Classifier)

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Document number UNNUMBERED/801313 Pages 2

Document title ELZA WAREHOUSE ACTIVITIES BEFORE 1972

Author(s) (indicate other divisions or organizations, if applicable) GG FEE

Document type (See Doc. Prep. Guide, Chs. 1 and 2. for definitions of document types):

- Formal Report
- Progress Report
- Informal R&D Report
- Abstract
- Drawing
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- Correspondence
- Internal Technical Data
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