

Responses: 55.

Burden Hours: 1,100.

Abstract: This Annual Performance Report will allow the Department of Education to collect information required by the Reading First statute.

Requests for copies of the submission for OMB review; comment request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the

"Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 2329. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651 or to the e-mail address vivan.reese@ed.gov. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the internet address OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov or faxed to 202-708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Kathy Axt at her e-mail address Kathy.Axt@ed.gov.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Certification of the Radiological Condition of the Ventron Site in Beverly, MA

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of certification.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) has completed remedial actions to decontaminate the Ventron site in Beverly, Massachusetts. This property formerly was found to contain quantities of radioactive material from activities conducted for the Manhattan Engineer District (MED) (and its successor the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)) from 1942 to 1948. Based on the analysis of all data collected, DOE has concluded that the property is in compliance with DOE radiological decontamination criteria and standards and that no radiological restrictions on the use of the property are required.

ADDRESSES: The certification docket is available at the following locations: U.S. Department of Energy, Public Reading Room, Room 1E-190,

Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585.

U.S. Department of Energy, DOE Information Center, 475 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831.

Beverly Public Library, 32 Essex Street, Beverly, Massachusetts 01915.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Donald Mackenzie, Health Physicist, U.S. Department of Energy, Ohio Office, Office of Site Closure, EM-31/Cloverleaf Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-2040, Phone: (301) 903-7426, Fax: (301) 903-2385.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The U.S. DOE, Oak Ridge Operations Office (OR), Office of Environmental Management, has conducted remedial action at the Ventron site in Beverly, Massachusetts, under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). The objective of the program is to identify and remediate, or otherwise control, sites where residual radioactive contamination remains from activities carried out under contract to the MED/AEC during the early years of the nation's atomic energy program.

In October 1997, the Energy and Water Appropriations Act, 1998 transferred responsibility for management of FUSRAP to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (US ACE). Completion of the certification process was delayed pending preparation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DOE and U.S. ACE with regard to completed, remediated sites such as the Ventron property. The MOU between the U.S. DOE and the U.S. ACE regarding Program Administration and Execution of the FUSRAP was signed by the parties in March 1999. Funding to proceed with the completion of DOE closure documentation for several FUSRAP sites, including the Ventron site, was obtained from U.S. ACE in late 2000. The closure documentation for these sites will document the cleanup and inform the public of their successful decontamination of radioactive contamination.

From 1942 to 1948, the Metal Hydrides Corporation (predecessor to the Ventron Corporation) conducted natural uranium processing operations under contract to the MED and its successor, the AEC. The MED/AEC contract operations at the Ventron site involved conversion of uranium oxide to uranium metal powder using calcium hydride. In a process used later at the facility, uranium oxide was reacted with hydrogen fluoride to produce uranium tetrafluoride, which was mixed with

magnesium and heated to produce uranium metal. Other operations at the site involved recovery of uranium from scrap and turnings resulting from operations at a fuel fabrication plant in Hanford, Washington. Uranium-238 was identified as the primary contaminant of concern associated with MED/AEC activities. Two of the original buildings, which housed foundry facilities, were demolished between 1948 and 1950 (after completion of AEC surveying and decommissioning), and two other buildings (Buildings B and F) were erected at these locations. The remaining original buildings (Buildings A and A-1) contained furnaces, leaching facilities, a mixing room, a drying room, and analytical laboratories. The Alfa Building was used in later non-MED-related thorium operations, reportedly involving purification of thorium compounds. The primary radioactive contaminant resulting from this work was thorium-232.

In 1965, Metal Hydrides Corporation became the Ventron Corporation, which was acquired by the Thiokol Corporation in late 1976. In 1980, Ventron became a division of Morton Thiokol, Incorporated (renamed Morton International in 1990). The site was designated for remedial action under FUSRAP in 1986.

Site characterization was performed in 1992 using the Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration method, an expedited approach developed by DOE to quickly and efficiently conduct remedial investigations/feasibility studies at DOE facilities. This approach indicated several areas of contamination.

Primary radioactive contaminants were uranium-238, thorium-232, and radium-226. Residual radioactive contamination (primarily uranium) was identified in soil and in fill, material beneath four buildings, and elevated surface contamination was found in Buildings A and A-1. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed by DOE and Morton International in 1996 provided that FUSRAP would decontaminate all buildings containing radioactivity above DOE Order 5400.5 guidelines in effect at the time (whether of government or non-government origin) and that Morton would demolish the buildings.

Before remedial action began, the site was surveyed to delineate boundaries of radioactive contamination, supplement existing characterization information, and obtain radiological and chemical data needed to classify the waste generated during cleanup. Waste profile information was necessary to establish acceptability of the various waste streams at the Envirocare of Utah low-