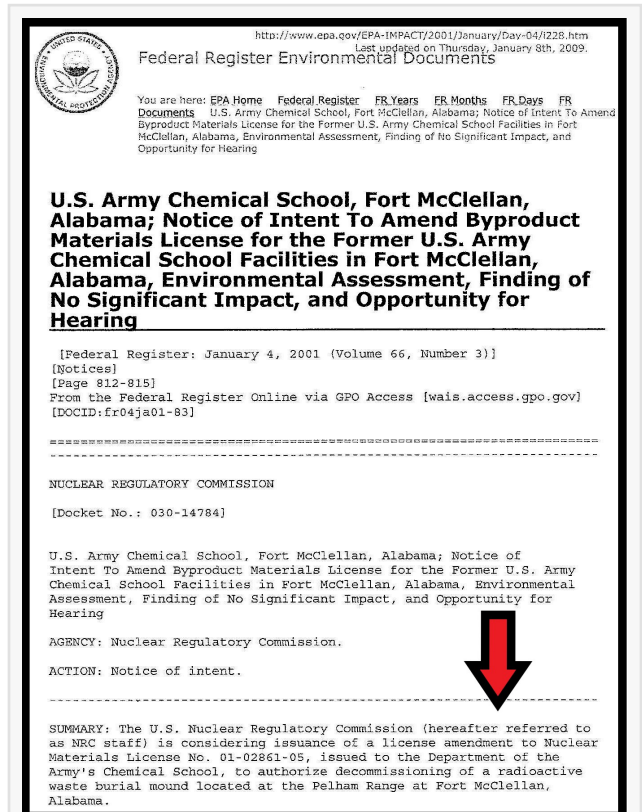


VETERANS ACCUSE THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION OF MISHANDLING RADIOACTIVE HAZARD SITES IN ALABAMA.

Numerous new hazard sites were discovered over the years, yet no health advisories were ever issued to the former soldiers of Fort McClellan.

ALBANY, NEW YORK, USA, April 20, 2021 /EINPresswire.com/ -- On January 4, 2001, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency issued a joint public notice announcing their upcoming plan to begin a remedial cleanup action at the former Fort McClellan, Alabama Army base. The cleanup action was to remove a massive burial mound of radioactive material holding Co-60 cobalt lead and Cesium-137 atomic waste. The history of papers surrounding the site indicate it had languished for entire decades while military authorities made only mediocre efforts to contain it. While the announcement was headlined as having a finding of “no significant impact”, the rest of the details in the announcement held clues to a different story.

A finding of “no significant impact”, was only to say that the removal action itself was not expected to have widespread environmental implications for the area. But buried within the details of the papers, other contradictions were found. Environmental authorities were so worried at the time about the disturbance of particles during the removal action, that flight contractors were hired to conduct air sampling from the sky to take periodic measurements. Construction workers were required to fully suit up with personal protection gear. Then in 2004, one of the air sampling planes discovered new radioactive readings on their detection equipment. They discovered that located right near the original radioactive burial mound, there was also a second and undiscovered radioactive site giving out detectable emissions from an unknown source. The new site was found to be caused by a naturally occurring layer of shale rock that was emitting radioactive levels of [uranium](#).



The 2001 NRC/EPA agency notice of a radioactive cleanup action.

There is no indication across the pile of military history reports that suggests any reevaluation was ever done to determine if a new health risk threat was posed to the soldiers who had been stationed there. The combined emission levels of both sites should have been considered together as an environmental mixture. This evasion of process forms the crux of arguments which are now coming from the service veterans who were there. They are working towards the goal of obtaining new reports from the GAO Office and the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the decades of circumstances surrounding the combinations of exposures they passed through while they were on military active duty at the base. The group is found on Facebook at their reporting page called Toxic Exposure Army Veterans of Fort McClellan. They have compiled an impressive cache of environmental source papers to make their case with.

The McClellan Vets are working from a defined toxic exposure profile of ten toxic or hazardous spill sites which spanned across four different locations either at or around the former Army base. This includes all the atomic and radiological sources that were found across Pelham Range and the main base of Fort McClellan. The list of their concerns includes radiological isotope spills (called

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The proposed decommissioning action will have a positive environmental impact on the water quality in the area since low-level radioactive contamination will be removed from the soil above the aquifer”

Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 2001

“hot cells”) that ran for a time prior to each discovery.

There were atomic emission rods still found in the ground and abandoned from prior training classes. The atomic rods were used to simulate a nuclear fallout event that would be sufficient to set off military detection devices for training purposes during the Cold War Era. According to the source papers, there were hundreds of these rods congregated into a single parcel area that were all giving off emissions.

The veterans feel they have a compelling position to be reckoned with. If sites were deemed hazardous enough to require federal agency remedial cleanup actions, and to also require the cleanup workers to be suited up for

protection when doing so, then who is behind making the epic bad decision of saying that soldiers who were stationed there were never exposed to anything dangerous to their health?

TABLE II-5. RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION WITHIN THE RADIOLOGICAL FACILITIES (1975)

1. Soil Samples (surface soil to a depth of 2 inches)

Sample ID	Location	Beta Activity ($\mu\text{Ci}/\text{gm}$)
A	20 ft S of SW corner Bldg 3192	4.1×10^{-5}
B	15 ft W of SW corner Bldg 3192	1.8×10^{-4}
C	3 ft W of NW corner Bldg 3192	9.5×10^{-4}
D	3 ft E of concrete pad at S fence line	5.0×10^{-5}
E	Fence line at SE corner Bldg 3182	1.7×10^{-4}
F	3 ft E of S fence bend, near Bldg 3182	1.2×10^{-4}
G	3 ft E of concrete pad, near dock	6.4×10^{-5}
H	E of concrete pad, S of access road	4.5×10^{-5}
I	N of access road NE of Bldg 3182	1.4×10^{-5}

2. Surface Smears

Sample ID	Location	Beta Activity ($\mu\text{Ci}/100 \text{ cm}^2$)
1	Floor, center of Bldg 3180	1.0×10^{-5}
2	Hallway, Hot Cell Door, Bldg 3192	1.2×10^{-5}
3	Air System Inlet, Bldg 3192	5.9×10^{-5}
4	NE Pad Doorway, Bldg 3182	$<1.1 \times 10^{-6}$
5	SE Pad Doorway, Bldg 3182	$<1.1 \times 10^{-6}$
6	Intermediate Point, Between #4 and #5	1.8×10^{-6}

3. Analysis of Water in Holdup Tank, After 15 Minutes Recirculation

Sample ID	Beta Activity ($\mu\text{Ci}/\text{ml}$)
Dissolved solids	4.1×10^{-6}
Suspended solids	9.9×10^{-6}
Total	1.4×10^{-5}

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Hot cell locations taken from the 1977 Aberdeen MD. Environmental Survey of Fort McClellan

The veterans are troubled by the sheer volume of new discoveries that were made for hazardous or toxic spill sites as the base was inching its way towards closure. They say that that violations have likely been made against the EPA's own regulatory statutes that warns of exceeding the known safety limits for "cumulative effects" of [multiple spill sites](#) from piling up at a single location during the the same span of years (40 CFR 1508.7 and 1508.8).

The veterans accuse the (NRC) of pandering to McClellan authorities just so they could continue with their licenses and permits to operate. The veterans have found no evidence of concern shown for their well being by any agency that was involved in environmental oversights at McClellan. They additionally accuse the (NRC) of possibly using radiation threshold limits that were way too high for the area when placed in the context of all other known chemical contamination sites that were active during the same set of years. They point to the fact that Edgewood, Maryland was using the entire base as a secret remote test location for outdoors (CBRNE) military field experiments from 1950 to 1973.

The published health sciences for significant metallic lead exposure have pointed to a health risk outcome of [respiratory conditions](#). This happens to be a match to the medical histories of many who are in the McClellan Vets group. The VA does not automatically screen for matching health patterns that emerges from soldiers according to their military base locations. So, it's left up to the veterans to do the science matching for themselves. They have to locate the health sciences that are matched to the toxic spill sources from McClellan and then compare those to their own medical histories. They go on to point out that this is only sufficient for estimating the possibilities of an aggregate exposure event for each veteran. The method is not a replacement for a higher practitioner review which is needed to cumulate the new toxicity values for all the exposure combinations that were active during the same set of years at the base. Such a review can only be accomplished at the Environmental Protection Agency, which the veterans are working to obtain.

S.R. Frasier, Activist
 Toxic Exposure Army Veterans of Fort McClellan
 ft_mcclellan_vets1@yahoo.com
 Visit us on social media:

Original file

Form AEC-313 8-54 10 CFR 30		UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION APPLICATION FOR BYPRODUCT MATERIAL LICENSE		Form approved Revised Bureau No. 15-70527
INSTRUCTIONS - Complete Items 1 through 16 if this is an initial application or an application for renewal of a license. Information contained in previous applications filed with the Commission with respect to Items 8 through 13 may be incorporated by reference provided references are clear and specific. Use supplemental sheets where necessary. Item 16 must be completed on all applications. Mail two copies to: U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, Washington, D.C., 20545, Attention: Isotopes Branch, Division of Materials Licensing. Upon approval of this application, the applicant will receive an AEC Byproduct Material License. An AEC Byproduct Material License is issued in accordance with the general requirements contained in Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 30, and the License is subject to Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.				
1. (a) NAME AND STREET ADDRESS OF APPLICANT (Institution, firm, hospital, parent, etc. Include ZIP Code.) 09610 COMMANDER, US Army School/Training Center Fort McClellan, Alabama 36201 ATTN: AJMGP-S-S		(b) STREET ADDRESS(S) AT WHICH BYPRODUCT MATERIAL WILL BE USED (If different from 1 (a). Include ZIP Code.) Material is residual contamination in three places at Fort McClellan, all within fenced area behind Building 3182.		
2. DEPARTMENT TO USE BYPRODUCT MATERIAL Material will not be used. The Port McClellan Radiological Protection Officer will be the action officer.		3. PREVIOUS LICENSE NUMBER(S) (If this is an application for renewal of a license, please indicate and give number.) Material formerly under SMI-1-2851-1, which will be cancelled 21 Jun 73. THIS IS NOT A RENEWAL OR AMENDMENT APPLICATION.		
4. INDIVIDUAL USER(S) (Name and title of individual(s) who will use or directly supervise use of byproduct material. Give training and experience in Items 8 and 9.) NO USERS		5. RADIATION PROTECTION OFFICER (Name of person designated as radiation protection officer if other than individual user. Attach resume of his training and experience as in Items 8 and 9.) Mr. Charlie U. Daniel, Jr.		
6. (a) BYPRODUCT MATERIAL (Element and mass number of each.) Primarily Cobalt-60 (Presence verified by United States Army Environmental Hygiene Agency (USAEHA)). Some Cesium-137 (presence suspected)		(b) CHEMICAL AND/OR PHYSICAL FORM AND MAXIMUM NUMBER OF MILLICURIES OF EACH CHEMICAL AND/OR PHYSICAL FORM THAT YOU WILL POSSESS AT ANY ONE TIME (If sealed source(s), also state name of manufacturer, model number, number of sources and maximum activity per source. Chemical form is not known.) Physical form is small solid particles absorbed and adsorbed onto permanent metal and concrete surfaces in three places, all within the fenced area behind Building 3182. Contained within this area is Building 3192, formerly known and referred to as the Hot-Cell Facility. Maximum dose rate is 65 mr/hr. Precise curage unknown; estimated amount is 1C millicuries. See map attached to proposed Post Regulation, "Residual Radiological Contamination Safety Program", for locations of contamination. Recent wipe tests show that, even after decontamination efforts considerable removable contamination exists within the Hot Cell portion of building 3192 (up to 550,000 dpm). This portion of the building has been walled off for safety reasons. Decontamination of USACMLCS at Fort McClellan has been carried out in accordance with U S Army Environmental Hygiene Agency Report 43-011-73 and AEC Region II Director of Regulatory Operations guidance, both of which sources recommended leaving these three places contaminated due to time, money, and hazard difficulty in decontamination.		
7. DESCRIBE PURPOSE FOR WHICH BYPRODUCT MATERIAL WILL BE USED (If byproduct material is for power use, supplement A Form AEC-313a must be completed in lieu of this item. If byproduct material is in the form of a sealed source, include the make and model number of the storage container and or device in which the source will be stored and/or used.) Material is residual contamination and cannot be used in the normal sense of the word. No use of any type is planned.				

1973 Army commander letter discovering Co-60 & Cesium-137 spill sites

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