Rodney Collins 12/2/2008
Hazardous Substances Scientist
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(via e-mail and U.S. Mail)

Tracy Egoscue and David Bacharowski
California Regional Water Quality Control Board Los Angeles Region (RWQCB)
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200
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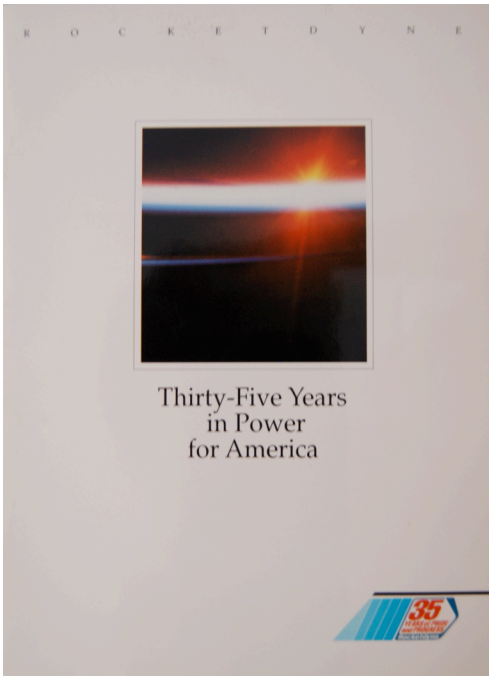
cc. Susan Callery DTSC, Shelly Backlar Friends of the Los Angeles River, David Beckman NRDC, Christina Walsh Cleanuprocketdyne dot org, Los Angeles City Council District 12 Councilmember Greig Smith.

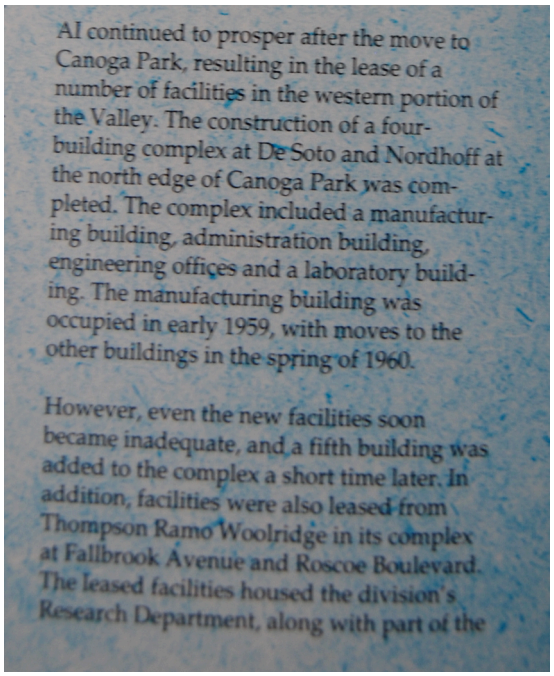
Dear Mr. Collins,

Thank you for meeting with us yesterday relating to our concerns of Chemical and Radiological contamination at the Corporate Pointe West Hills Property (CPWHP).

We need to fully understand the past operations of the site in order to remedy the Areas of Concern (AOC). Atomics International (AI) a division of Rocketdyne, parent of The Boeing Company leased space from Thompson Ramo Woolridge (TRW) the original owners of the CPWHP. We request the operational records be obtained along with lists of radioisotopes used and in what building.

In the book "Rocketdyne – Thirty-Five Years in Power for America" published in 1990, Under an AI section on page 40 it states "facilities were also leased from Thompson Ramo Woolridge in its complex at Fallbrook Avenue and Roscoe Boulevard. The leased facilities housed the division's Research Department, along with part of the engineering and power reactor development departments." This proves the fact we are dealing with a nuclear issue and the results from the RWQCB letter on October 21, 2008 to Mr. Daniel Samorano of Raytheon could possibly be contamination from AI and are not to be taken lightly.




AI continued to prosper after the move to Canoga Park, resulting in the lease of a number of facilities in the western portion of the Valley. The construction of a four-building complex at De Soto and Nordhoff at the north edge of Canoga Park was completed. The complex included a manufacturing building, administration building, engineering offices and a laboratory building. The manufacturing building was occupied in early 1959, with moves to the other buildings in the spring of 1960.

However, even the new facilities soon became inadequate, and a fifth building was added to the complex a short time later. In addition, facilities were also leased from Thompson Ramo Woolridge in its complex at Fallbrook Avenue and Roscoe Boulevard. The leased facilities housed the division's Research Department, along with part of the


Atomics International

Until its merger with Rocketdyne in 1984, Atomics International was a free-standing entity that pursued practical uses for nuclear power. From its early beginnings to its present-day research activities, AI's accomplishments have paralleled the growth of atomic energy throughout the nation.

SOME 35 YEARS AGO in a secluded area in the Downey plant of North American Aviation, Inc. (NAA), a group of engineers and scientists was exploring a new technology that was a result of the discovery of nuclear fission in 1939. This epochal event opened up the prospect of an entirely new source of energy that had first been manifested in the bombs used near the end of World War II. In the early 1950s, the Atomic Energy Research Department of NAA was engaged in research and development for controlled release of energy from the atom for the production of electric power. This research and development was then sponsored by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), which was formed in 1946 to continue the development of nuclear power for both military and civilian applications. These were initiated in the Manhattan Project by the urgency of the war effort. Among new interests was a desire to investigate the feasibility of nuclear technology in propulsion scenarios.

One of the projects that resulted was the design, construction and operation of the first nuclear reactor in California. A source of neutrons was needed for one of the reactor physics projects, so a small aqueous, homogeneous reactor called the Water Boiler Neutron Source (WBNS) was built and put into operation on April 21, 1952. The reactor was operated at power levels up to 4 watts and served as an excellent neutron source for a number of reactor physics programs. It didn't really boil water, as one might guess from the 4-watt power level, but a small amount of hydrogen and oxygen from decomposition of the water was released from the solution into a tank during operation—hence the designation "water boiler".

The WBNS was operated at Downey until mid-1956, when it was dismantled and moved to a facility at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL). A number of design changes were made to increase the power level to 3 kilowatts to provide a significant increase in the available neutrons and offer greater flexibility in the use of the reactor. Operation of the reactor continued until

The Water Boiler Neutron Source (WBNS) in operation in early 1950s.

February 29, 1980, when it was no longer cost-effective to continue its operation. It has since been completely dismantled and decontaminated, and the facility was released for unrestricted use.

AS AEC programs grew in the early 1950s, the Atomic Energy Research Department flourished, and larger quarters and more laboratories were needed. In March 1954, the AEC announced its Five-Year Program for Power Reactor Development. NAA's Atomic Energy Research Department was chosen to design, build and operate one of five types of reactors.

The reactor type built by NAA was a sodium-cooled graphite-moderated reactor, and the program became known as the Sodium Reactor Experiment (SRE). Preliminary engineering had been done for the SRE, and a tentative site was selected on NAA property in the Santa Susana hills, where other parts of the corporation were producing rocket engine development. Intensive design work began in June 1954, and construction was started at the Santa Susana site in April 1955.

In November 1955, the formation of the Atomics International (AI) Division from the Nuclear Engineering and Manufacturing Department was announced by the North American Aviation Corporate Office. Coincidentally, the establishment of AI corresponded with the creation of Rocketdyne as a division, so both entities share the same birth date.

The new Atomics International Division was housed in Canoga Park, and construction of the SRE was completed in February 1957. The facility included an electric power generating system installed by Southern California Edison to provide power to their grid and operational experience of a nuclear plant for their staff. The initial self-sustaining chain reaction or "criticality" was achieved on April 25, 1957. The SRE became the first nuclear reactor in the United States to produce power for a commercial power grid

The above photos show the publication and it's excerpts.

This is a great concern to us, as we have seen elevated radionuclides in recent reports. As a scientist, you understand that without proper remediation, these isotopes can pose an ongoing problem. There are hundreds of gallons leaving this site daily in the form of stormwater runoff, dewatering runoff and groundwater springs that impact the Chatsworth Reservoir Diversion Tunnel below Hidden Lake draining into the L.A. River. The meeting you are arranging with the RWQCB should address this issue and the requested documents be present and available to the public at the time of this meeting.

Thank you in advance for all your work on these issues, coordinating your investigations with the RWQCB, keeping us informed on associated correspondence and request you continue to do so.

Take care,

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