



10 January 2000

EA Project # 60957.33

**FOIA/PA REQUEST**

Case No: 2000-0101  
 Date Rec'd: 1-12-00  
 Action Off: Pool  
 Related Case: \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
 Mail Stop T-6 D8  
 Washington, DC 20555-0001  
 Attn: Carol Anne Reed

RE: Official Request for Information Based on the Freedom of Information Act

Dear Ms. Reed:

EA Engineering, Science and Technology, Inc. (EA) is under contract to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District, to investigate the status of properties that performed work as part of the nation's early atomic energy program. These properties conducted work for the Manhattan Engineer District (MED) and the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and later the Department of Energy (DOE).

EA is currently investigating the facility known as the **W.R. Grace, Curtis Bay Facility** located at 5500 Chemical Road in Baltimore, Maryland. Preliminary data for the **W.R. Grace, Curtis Bay Facility** indicates that in 1909 the **Davison Chemical Corporation** purchased the Curtis Bay Works location, then known as "Chairs Farm". Production of sulfuric acid began in 1910. By the early 1940s, Davison was producing several agricultural and industrial chemicals. In 1954, the Davison Chemical Corporation was acquired by W.R. Grace and became the Davison Chemical Division of W.R. Grace and Company. During the 1940s and 1950s, W.R. Grace may have been involved in the Manhattan Project. Pursuant to a contract dated July 1955 between Rare Earth, Inc. and the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), Rare Earth, Inc. obtained a license under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to possess, transfer, and use radioactive materials including thorium. In late 1956 this license was transferred to W.R. Grace along with the assignment of the contract issued by A.E.C. Thorium processing that occurred at Curtis Bay was performed under the following licenses **R-132** and **R-196**. Additional research may also have occurred at the Hilltop Laboratory, which was also located on the W.R. Grace Curtis Bay property. Operations performed at the laboratory were under license numbers **C-4132, SMB-334, SMB-417, SNM-840, 19-4003-1, 19-4003-4, and 19-4003-5**.

EA respectfully requests any and all information that you may have on file for the W.R. Grace Curtis Bay site. In particular, EA requests information relating to site historical operations, site use information, processing information, MED/NRC/AEC

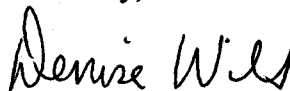
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correspondence, license information pertaining to the site including copies of the license and any license termination correspondence as well as any additional records which may be related to the site.

Records pertaining to operations at this site could be included under licenses mentioned above as well as the following site/organization names: **W.R. Grace, Pompton Plains (NJ) Facility, Washington Research Center (Clarksville, MD), Curtis Bay Facility (MD); Davison Chemical Corporation; and Rare Earth, Inc.**

Please contact me or Michael O'Neill at (410) 771-4950 in order to schedule an appointment when we may review available files or so that copies of available files may be sent to EA. I thank you for your time and appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Denise Wilt  
Project Geologist