



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 3, 2017

GLC Associates One, LLC
135 South Main Street
Thomaston, CT 06787

SUBJECT: SETH THOMAS CLOCK COMPANY—RESULTS OF INITIAL SITE VISIT AND
REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF VOLUNTARY CONTROLS

Dear Mr. Lacapra:

I am writing to provide you with the results of the NRC's December 14-15, 2016 and January 31-February 1, 2017 initial site visits to your property at 135 South Main Street, Thomaston, Connecticut. The NRC evaluated your site for radium contamination to determine: (1) whether there were any immediate health and safety concerns that require restricting access to the contaminated area; and (2) whether remediation is necessary. The results of the site visit are summarized below and are discussed in further detail in the enclosed report.

The NRC staff conducted radiation surveys over approximately 40 percent of the site. The surveys focused on potentially contaminated areas identified during historic surveys in the main structures and occupied office spaces. The NRC staff's ability to access and survey the site was limited because portions of the site were occupied by equipment or in use as storage. In areas where we identified elevated radiation levels, we conducted additional measurements to test for removable contamination.

During the site visit, radium was identified on the first, second, third, and fourth floors. For the first, second, and fourth floors, the amount of contamination identified would not result in an occupant exceeding the NRC's public dose limit of 100 millirem/yr (10 CFR 20.1301). Some of the exposure rate measurements on the third floor required further evaluation to determine whether access must be restricted. Given the configuration of the third floor of the clock tower as a small office space, if occupied, the NRC considers it more likely that the dose rate to an occupant of this room would exceed the public dose limit of 100 millirem/yr. As the NRC inspector discussed at the end of the site visit, you agreed to continue to restrict access to the small office on the third floor of the clock tower which was vacant.

Please respond to this letter within 30 business days confirming the controls already in place and detailing any additional controls you plan to put into place. We also request that you provide us with additional information regarding your plans for the site, including potential future uses. At this time, based on the results from this initial site visit and current uses, provided the voluntary controls restricting access to the third floor clock tower office remain in effect, the NRC staff concludes there are no immediate health and safety concerns at this site.

Concerning the second determination that must be made, i.e., whether remediation of the site is necessary, the survey results on the first and third floors indicate that remediation is required. While contamination was identified on the second and fourth floors, the level of contamination would not result in a dose that exceeds the NRC's limit for unrestricted use, i.e. 25 mrem/yr.

Additional work is necessary to determine the extent of contamination and the cleanup required to meet NRC's unrestricted use limit of 25 millirem/yr (10 CFR 20.1402); our survey of your site does not constitute characterization of the site. Please be aware that remediation activities pursued at your site may also involve meeting State requirements and standards.

It is recommended that you consider hiring a service provider licensed by the NRC or NRC Agreement State to guide you on next steps. As previously discussed, site cleanup is the responsibility of the site owner. The NRC is currently evaluating a number of policy issues associated with the remediation of non-military sites contaminated with radium. We will be in further contact with you as decisions on these matters are reached by the Commission that may impact your site.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

We will be contacting you in the near future to answer any questions you may have regarding this letter. Additionally, you may also contact Mr. Stephen Koenick, Chief of the Materials Decommissioning Branch within the Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery and Waste Programs in the Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards at (301) 415-6631 or Mr. David Misenhimer, the Project Manager, at (301) 415-6590.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John R. Tappert, Director
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery
and Waste Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 03038970

Enclosure: Site Visit Report

REGISTERED LETTER – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

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