



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom

Our Ref: FOI2019/08609

Telephone: +44(0)20 7218 9000

E-mail:

[DNO-
SecretariatTeam@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DNO-SecretariatTeam@mod.gov.uk)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

18 October 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email requesting the following information:

File reference AB16/1452

As confirmed previously, we have treated your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and we can advise that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds information in scope of your request.

We attach the following document:

- AB16/1452 - Disposal of radioactive waste at Whittle Hill Quarry

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Nuclear Organisation Secretariat

DECLASSIFIED

UNITED KINGDOM ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY

Number

Subject

S
closed
968

HS/2/2

(Section I)

DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE AT WHITTLE HILL QUARRY

Registered 9.9.56-14-11-72

Former File (For Registry use only)		Other relevant Files		Referred to	Date
		HS/2/7 HS/2/8 8	CLOSED UNTIL 1989	AB	16
				1452	
Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date		
<i>Mr. [unclear]</i>	27.5.60				
<i>Mr. [unclear] (for review)</i>	10/5/60				
<i>Mr. [unclear] (for E.P.)</i>	11/6/60				
	2/6				
<i>Mr. Potter (on return)</i>	2/6/60				
<i>Mr. [unclear] [unclear]</i>	2/6				
	2/6				
<i>Mr. Stone</i>	14/71				

25YR REVIEW

- 1 ✓ DECLASSIFY
- 2 ✓ TRANSFER TO P.R.O.
- 3 RETAIN
- 4 DESTROY

(SG) E. J. S. CLARKE

301 Sept 1980

DECLASSIFIED AT
25 YEAR REVIEW

(INITIALED) *[Signature]*
(DATE) 9th Oct 1980

REVIEW THREE YEARS AFTER LAST ENTRY

- Branch to destroy now
 - Archives to keep for 25 years for possible transfer to Public Record Office.
 - Branch to retain and reconsider on
- Date *8/8/78* Signed *[Signature]* (Responsible Branch Officer)

R 23381/478 1m 6/75 TP

DECLASSIFIED

Date *10 May 82*

Signature of Branch Officer *[Signature]*

Authority for final closing

Initials

Branch

Date

75
634

202

Health & Safety Branch,

HS/2/2
91236/61/1

4th November, 1958.

Dear Ward,

Thank you for your letter of 30th October together with 16 copies of the revised authorisation for disposal of solid radioactive waste into Whittle Hill Quarry.

I must apologise for taking so long to acknowledge the receipt of these documents but we have been working under great pressure here for the last few days.

I am most grateful for your help in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

E. A. Balfour

F. J. Ward, Esq.,
Ministry of Housing & Local Government,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

74
E33

202

Health & Safety Branch,

3rd November, 1958.

Dear Hampton,

I send you herewith 15 copies of the variation of authorisation for disposal of radioactive waste into Whittle Hill Quarry by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and a further 15 copies by the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food.

Yours sincerely,

E. A. Balfour

G. H. Hampton, Esq.,
U.K. Atomic Energy Authority,
Industrial Group Headquarters,
Risley,
Warrington,
Lancs.

[REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED

COPY

ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY ACT, 1954

Variation of authorisation for disposal of
radioactive waste

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food hereby varies as from 1st November 1958 his authorisation given under section 5(4) of the above Act by an Instrument under his official seal of the twenty-fourth day of March, nineteen hundred and fifty-eight, for the discharge into Whittle Hill Quarry of solid radioactive wastes from the premises occupied by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority at Springfields and Capenhurst, by substituting for the words '10 tons', 'each calendar month', and '250 tons', where these appear in paragraph 1(c) thereof, the words '30 tons', 'any three consecutive calendar months' and '750 tons' respectively.

IN WITNESS whereof the Official Seal
of the Minister of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food is hereunto
affixed this thirty-first
day of October, nineteen hundred
and fifty-eight.

(L.S.)

(sgd) E. P. Keely
Under Secretary

DECLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

Whitehall 6262
Ext. 151

3rd November, 1958.

Your ref: Z.867

Dear Carnochan,

Thank you for your letter of 31st October enclosing the original and sixteen copies of a revised authorisation under the Atomic Energy Authority Act, 1954, for the disposal of solid radioactive waste into Whittle Hill Quarry.

Yours sincerely,

I.G.K. Williams.

J.G. Carnochan, Esq.,
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food,
Dean Bradley House,
Horseferry Road,
London, S.W.1.



ABBEY 9030

586

Z.867

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Dean Bradley House

Horseferry Road

London, S.W.1

30th October, 1958

Dear Williams,

Atomic Energy Authority Act, 1954

I enclose the original and 16 copies of an authorisation under the above Act for the disposal of solid radioactive waste from Springfields and Capenhurst into Whittle Hill Quarry. The revised authorisation is operative as from the 1st November, 1958.

Yours sincerely,
J. G. Carnochan
J. G. CARNOCHAN

I. G. K. Williams, Esq.,
Atomic Energy Authority,
11, Charles II Street,
London, S.W.1.

TKO.
S.Ia

29

MINISTRY OF HOUSING & LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

WHITEHALL, LONDON, S.W.1.

Our reference:

91236/61/1

Your reference:

HS/2/2



Telephone: WHItEhall 4300

Extension 767.

Telegrams: Locaplan, Parl,
London

30th October, 1958.

Dear ~~Mr.~~ Balfour,

--- I enclose the revised authorisation
for disposals of solid radioactive waste
into Whittle Hill Quarry.

--- Sixteen copies are also enclosed
as requested.

Yours sincerely,

(F. J. WARD)

E. A. Balfour, Esq.,
Health & Safety Branch,
United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority,
11, Charles II Street,
S.W.1.

SD

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UNITED KINGDOM ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY

Telegrams: "A-ee-n," Warrington
Telex: Atom ay 62-301
Telephone: Warrington 31244
Ext. 491



INDUSTRIAL GROUP HEADQUARTERS,

Legal BRANCH,

RISLEY,

WARRINGTON,

LANCS.

Our Ref.

Your Ref.

Please address your reply to the appropriate Branch

28th October, 1958

Dear Mr. Balfour,

In reply to your letter to Mr. Fairbairn dated 23rd October, 1958, I confirm that the draft variation of authorisation for radioactive waste disposal (Whittle Hill Quarry) is approved by the Industrial Group. I believe that Mr. Fairbairn has already given you our agreement by telephone.

We should be pleased if the new authorisation could be issued as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely,

MRS. S. TYSON

E. A. Balfour, Esq.,
Health & Safety Branch,
11, Charles II Street,
London, S.W.1.

See letter to
Mr. Balfour dated
28.10.58.
E.A.
3910

27

202

Health & Safety Branch,

HS/2/2
9236/61/1

28th October, 1958.

Dear Ward,

Thank you for sending me the draft amended authorisation for disposal of solid radioactive waste into Whittle Hill Quarry. I passed this on to our Industrial Group who have accepted the amended draft without comment. If by any chance we do not receive the formal authorisation before November 1st may I take it that we may act on it from that date?

In sending us the authorisation I should be grateful if you would let me have 16 copies as well as the original. These are required by our Industrial Group.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Dow at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and to Mr. Hampton at Risley. I should be grateful if Mr. Dow could arrange for the authorisation from his Ministry to be issued.

Yours sincerely,

E. A. Balfour

F. J. Ward, Esq.,
Ministry of Housing & Local Government,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

cc Mr. D. R. Dow
Mr. G. H. Hampton

65
676

27th October, 1958.

Dear Dow,

Thank you for your letter of 24th October.

We are very grateful for your agreement over the extra 145 tons of solid waste to be discharged during October.

We spoke over the telephone about the possibility of having a thirteen week authorisation instead of a three calendar month authorisation and I explained to you that on the advice of our Health Physics people we are going to base our returns on calendar months instead of weeks. You agreed that if this was the case it would be all right for the authorisation to be for three calendar months.

I must apologise for not having sent you a copy of the letter I sent to Wickenden. It was despatched in rather a hurry when I found that no action had been taken about the change in authorisation. I send you a copy herewith.

Yours sincerely,

E. A. Balfour

D. R. Dow, Esq.,
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food,
Dean Bradley House,
Horseferry Road,
London, S.W.1.

E25
24 OCT 1958
A XI XII I II III
IV V VI VII VIII IX X

ATOM RISLEY, V ATOM LONDON SERIAL NO 1

TO MR. A. FAIRBAIRN, RISLEY
REPEAT MR. MASON, RISLEY
FROM MR. E.A. BALFOUR, HEALTH AND SAFETY, LONDON OFFICE

24.10.58
=====

MINISTRY AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD SUGGEST BETTER
BASE THE ~~REX~~ REVISED AUTHORISATION WHITTLE HILL ON A PERIOD
OF THIRTEEN WEEKS RATHER THAN THREE CONSECUTIVE CALENDAR MONTHS.
REASONS GIVEN SPRINGFIELDS KEEP THEIR RECORDS OF WASTE DISPOSAL
ON A WEEKLY BASIS AND THIS WOULD MAKE IT EASIER TO PROVIDE
THE REGULAR RECORDS NECESSARY TO CHECK THE DISCHARGES AGAINST
THE AUTHORISATION. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE WANT RETURNS OF
WASTE DISCHARGED TO BE SUBMITTED IN A FORM MATCHING THE
AUTHORISATION. GRATEFUL YOUR COMMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

THI 1155
COL 1- 24.10.58 1155
TOD 1202
ATOM RISLEY

ATOM SPRINGFLDS

V ATOM LONDON

SERIAL NO 1

TO
REPEAT

A. FAIRBAIRN INDUSTRIAL GROUP HEADQUARTERS, RISLEY
MASON, SPRINGFIELDS

FROM

E. A. BALFOUR, 11, CHARLES 11 STREET, LONDON

23.10.58

HAVE RECEIVED WRITTEN AGREEMENT FROM MINISTRY OF HOUSING
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR A FURTHER 145 TONS OF SOLID WASTES
OF THE TYPE DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 10(C)(A)(C1) AND (C)(A)(CIV)
OF THE AUTHORISATION OF 25TH MARCH 1958 IN ADDITION TO THE
AMOUNT ALREADY PERMITTED UNDER THAT AUTHORISATION. WILL SEND
ON COPY OF THE LETTER AND ALSO DRAFT VARIATION OF AUTHORISATION
FOR THREE MONTHLY DISCHARGES FOR CONSIDERATION AND AGREEMENT.

THI 1158

COL 1 23.10.58 145 10(C)(A)(C1) 1(C)(A)(CIV) 25 1958 1158

TOD 1300

ATOM SPRINGFLDS

623 ↗

Mr. A. Fairbairn, U.K.A.E.A.,
Industrial Group Headquarters, Risley.



Mr. Mason, Risley.

TRANSMITTED

E. A. Balfour, 11, Charles II St., S.W.1.

Ministry Agriculture, Fisheries and Food suggest better base the revised authorisation Whittle Hill on a period of thirteen weeks rather than three consecutive calendar months. Reasons given Springfields keep their records of waste disposal on a weekly basis and this would make it easier to provide the regular records necessary to check the discharges against the authorisation. Ministry of Agriculture want returns of waste discharged to be submitted in a form matching the authorisation. Grateful your comments as soon

Health & Safety

202

Charles II St.

24th October, 1958.

64
E22

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES AND FOOD

Telegrams:

AGRIFIFOOD LONDON TELEX

Any reply should be addressed to

THE SECRETARY

quoting No. Z 867

Your Reference HS/2/2

Telephone: ABBEY 9030

DEAN BRADLEY HOUSE
HORSEFERRY ROAD
LONDON, S. W. 1



24th October, 1958

Dear Balfour,

In reply to your letter of 17th October about the difficulties over discharges into Whittle Hill Quarry experienced during recent months by the Springfields Establishment of the Authority's Industrial Group it is agreed that in view of the short fall during the preceding two months we should not raise any objections to the discharge during October of an additional 145 tons of solid waste in addition to the 250 tons covered by the present authorisation.

I gather from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government that you now wish to proceed with your request for a revised authorisation on the lines mentioned in Carnochan's letter to Williams dated 3rd September last and I should be glad if you would let me have a copy of your letter to Wickenden on this subject. I should like to suggest, however, that it would be better to base the revised authorisation on a period of thirteen weeks rather than three consecutive calendar months.

/It

E. A. Balfour, Esq.,
United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority,
11, Charles II Street,
S.W.1.

202

Health & Safety Branch,

23rd October, 1958.

Dear Fairbairn,

As we are rather rushed here I am just sending you the copy of the letter I have received from Ward of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and of the suggested draft authorisation for radioactive waste. Will you please let me know if you agree to the draft and I will get ahead with it as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely,

E. A. Balfour


A. Fairbairn, Esq.,
U.K. Atomic Energy Authority,
Industrial Group Headquarters,
Risley,
Warrington,
Lancs.

621

It is our experience that Springfields keep their records of waste disposal on a weekly basis and by adopting my suggestion it will make it easier for them to provide the regular records necessary to check the discharges against the authorisation. We should certainly want the returns of waste discharged to be submitted in a form which matched the authorisation and I am sure you will find the factory would prefer my suggestion.

I have sent a copy of this letter to Ward.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D.R. Dow', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

D.R. Dow.

62
E70

A. Fairbairn, U.K.A.E.A.,
Industrial Group Headquarters, Risley.

Mason, Springfields.

E. A. Balfour, 11, Charles II Street, S.W.1.

Have received written agreement from Ministry of Housing and Local Government for a further 145 tons of solid wastes of the type described in paragraph 10(1)(a)(i) and (1)(a)(iv) of the authorisation of 25th March 1958 in addition to the amount already permitted under that authorisation. Will send on copy of the letter and also draft variation of authorisation for three monthly discharges for consideration and agreement.

202

Charles II St.

Health & Safety
23rd October, 1958.

S2a

MINISTRY OF HOUSING & LOCAL GOVERNMENT
WHITEHALL, LONDON, SW1

64
619

Our Reference 9236/61/1
Your Reference



Telegrams: Locaplan, Parl, London
Telex: 22801
Telephone: WHitehall 4300

Extension 767

22nd October, 1958.

Dear Balfour,

You wrote to me on 17th October explaining that, owing to transport difficulties, the discharges of solid radioactive waste into Whittle Hill Quarry during August and September only amounted to 355 tons and you sought permission to dispose of 395 tons into the quarry in October, 1958.

We have of course already agreed in principle that these discharges could be based on a three-monthly control period and the effect of this proposal would be that in the three months August, September and October the total discharge would not exceed the aggregate of the amounts already authorised.

In the circumstances we agree that the Authority may discharge into the quarry during the month of October a further 145 tons of solid wastes of the type described in the authorisation of 24th March, 1958, in addition to the amount already permitted under that authorisation. This letter may be taken as an authorisation for the purposes of Section 5(4) of the Atomic Energy Authority Act, 1954.

/In your

E. A. Balfour, Esq.,
United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority,
Health & Safety Branch,
11, Charles II Street,
S.W.1.

draft

ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY ACT, 1954

Variation of authorisation for disposal of
radioactive waste

The Minister of Housing and Local Government hereby varies as from *November*..... 1958 his authorisation given under section 5(4) of the above Act by an Instrument under his official seal of the twenty-fourth day of March, nineteen hundred and fifty-eight, for the discharge into Whittle Hill Quarry of solid radioactive wastes from the premises occupied by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority at Springfields and Capenhurst, by substituting for the words '10 tons', 'each calendar month', and '250 tons', where these appear in paragraph 1(c) thereof, the words '30 tons', 'any three consecutive calendar months' and '750 tons' respectively.

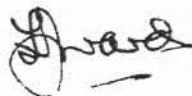
GIVEN under the official seal of the
Minister of Housing and Local Government
this day of October,
nineteen hundred and fifty-eight.

Assistant Secretary
Ministry of Housing and Local
Government

In your letter of 20th October to Wickenden you asked for the existing authorisation to be amended so that control is in future based on three-monthly periods and I enclose a draft of the authorisation which we propose to let you have shortly to govern discharges as from 1st November, 1958.

I am sending a copy of ~~your~~^{his} letter to Dew at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'F. J. Ward', with a horizontal line underneath.

(F. J. WARD).

Mr. Balfour

69
E17

Mr. Fairbairn telephoned about the Whittle Hill disposal of radioactive waste. I told him of the action we had taken and said we were doing all possible to get things forward.

Mr. Fairbairn is going to be at Springfields later on this morning and will be there most of the week. He would like you to ring him at Springfields, Ext.90 this morning about 11.30 a.m.

20th October, 1958.

E16

20th October, 1958.

Dear Wickenden,

You will remember that on 2nd September you wrote to Williams about our suggestion to amend the authorisation for discharges of solid waste into the Whittle Hill Quarry to enable discharges to be regulated over a three monthly rather than a monthly period. You suggested that there should be a single amended authorisation, such suiting the relevant terms for the limiting of quantities and periods for those already existing in Section 1 (c) of the authorisation dated 24th March, 1958. I promised to take the matter up with our Industrial Group and in fact did so, but unfortunately there was a clerical slip-up and I do not seem to have taken any action on the reply we had from Hampton of our Industrial Branch. This reply agreed entirely with your suggestions for the amendment of the authorisation. I should therefore be grateful if we could get this amendment made as soon as possible.

You did mention in the last paragraph of your letter an informal approach which you thought had been made for the disposal into the quarry of certain wastes not covered by the authorisation. Our Industrial Group does not think that we need pursue this further.

Yours sincerely,

E. A. Balfour

T. D. Wickenden, Esq.,
Ministry of Housing & Local Government,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

H5/2/2

17th October, 1958

Dear Ward,

The Springfields Establishment of the Authority's Industrial Group owing to transport difficulties were only able to dispose of 159 tons of waste into Whittle Hill Quarry in August and only 196 tons in September although the current authorisation permits of disposal of up to 250 tons per month.

X I am now writing on their behalf to ask whether you would issue the Authority with written permission to dispose of 395 tons of waste from Springfields into the Whittle Hill Quarry during October 1958. The figure of 395 tons is made up of the 250 tons already authorised for October plus the short fall for August and September which amounts to 145 tons. Section 1 (a)(1) of the authorisation refers to process residues which have received chemical treatment for recovery of uranium and which are estimated to contain not more than 0.25% of natural uranium by weight of such quantity of uranium of higher specific activity as produces an equivalent amount of activity. I understand from our Industrial Group that disposals of this type of waste will be confined to not more than ten tons for each of the three months August, September and October. The total discharge for the months of October to December, inclusive, will not exceed 750 tons.

If you are in agreement with this arrangement I should be glad to have an ad hoc authorisation as soon as possible.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Dow of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and should be grateful if he would take similar action on behalf of his Ministry.

Yours sincerely,

E. A. BALFOUR

F. J. Ward, Esq.,
Ministry of Housing & Local Government,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

cc Mr. Dow, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food.

X Checked back with Mr Fairclough. This is wrong
The reference should of course have been to 1(a)(ii) and (iii)
I have cleared this with Mr Taylor of the Ministry of L.S.

E.A.B.
23/10

E14 56

V RSY SRL 7
TO G A BALFOUR H AND S BRANCH LONDON OFFICE
RPT A FAIRBAIRN HP AND S SPRINGFIELDS
FROM H E RYLANDS ADMIN RISLEY
16.10.58



REF WASTE DISPOSAL WHITTLE HILL QUARRY.

SPRINGFIELDS STATE THAT OWING TO TRANSPORT DIFFICULTIES DISPOSALS OF WASTE IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER TOTALLED ONLY 159 TONS AND 196 TONS RESPECTIVELY. PLEASE ASK MINISTRIES CONCERNED FOR WRITTEN AUTHORITY TO DISPOSE OF 395 TONS IN OCTOBER. THIS FIGURE IS THE TOTAL OF 250 TONS FOR OCTOBER PLUS THE CARRY FORWARD OF 145 TONS FROM AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER. NOT MORE THAN 10 TONS PER MONTH OF THE WASTE SPECIFIED IN A (d) OF THE AUTHORISATION WOULD BE DISCHARGED. THE TOTAL DISCHARGE FOR THE MONTHS OF OCTOBER TO DECEMBER INCLUSIVE WOULD NOT EXCEED 750 TONS.

TH1 1610
COL 16.10.58 59 196 395 250 145 -10 1 +SML FIN+

(1)

25
E13

Mr. Balfour

Mr. Rylands telephoned on 13.10.58. I told him you were on leave until Friday and he said he would leave it until then.

He telephoned again this morning about the attached and said Mr. Fairbairn was pressing him about the Whittle Hill Quarry authorisation. I asked him if it could wait until tomorrow morning but he said it would be better if something could be done today.

Mr. Reilly happened to be in the office and had a word with Mr. Rylands and said he would ring Mr. Fairbairn. Mr. Reilly rang Springfields but found that Mr. Fairbairn is out until tomorrow.

16.10.58

MT.

UNITED KINGDOM ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY

24
E12

Telegrams: "Aton," Warrington
Telephone: Warrington 31244
Telex: Atom Risley 62-301



INDUSTRIAL GROUP HEADQUARTERS,

Legal BRANCH,

RISLEY,

WARRINGTON,

LANCS.

Ext. 491

Our Ref. AL 733.

Your Ref. _____

Please address your reply to the appropriate Branch

14th October, 1958.

Dear Balfour,

Authorisation for the disposal of
Radio-active Waste in Whittle
Hill Quarry

I refer to Hampton's letter of the 9th September 1958. Would you please let me know whether the formal Authorisation may be expected this month.

Yours sincerely,

H. E. RYLANDS

(Legal & Central Secretariat)

E. A. Balfour, Esq.,
United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority,
11, Charles II Street,
London, S.W.1.

in Hamilton at Springfields this week & next
and 90.

UNITED KINGDOM ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY

3
E11

Telegrams: "Aten," Warrington
Telex: Atom Risley 62-301
Telephone: Warrington 31244
Ext.....647.....
Our Ref.AL.733.....
Your Ref.....



INDUSTRIAL GROUP HEADQUARTERS,
.....BRANCH,
RISLEY,
WARRINGTON,
LANCS.

Please address your reply to the appropriate Branch

E. A. Balfour, Esq.,
Health & Safety Branch,
U.K.A.E.A.
LONDON.

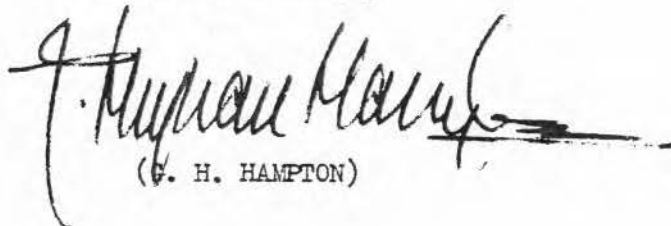
9th September, 1958.

Dear Balfour,

Thank you for your letter of 4th September about the Whittle Hill Quarry authorisation and the copy of the letter from Wickenden which you enclose. Wickenden's proposal for the amendment of the authorisation is perfectly satisfactory to us and we would like it to go ahead as quickly as possible.

As to his last paragraph we have been unable to discover exactly what the informal approach might have been but it is possible that it concerns the blending of Capenhurst wastes about which Mason at Springfields asked Neal of Ministry of Housing & Local Government for an opinion. In any event the point does not require to be pursued.

Yours sincerely,


(G. H. HAMPTON)



ABBEY 9030

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Dean Bradley House

Horseferry Road

London, S.W.1

Our Ref: Z.867

DECLASSIFIED

22
E10

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

3rd September, 1958.

Dear Williams,

In your letter of 26th June you asked whether the authorisation for the discharge of solid radioactive wastes from Springfields and Capenhurst into the Whittle Hill Quarry could be amended to cover three monthly, rather than monthly, periods. We have considered this request within the Department and agree in principle to averaging the monthly releases over periods of three months on the understanding that the average monthly rate does not exceed the quantities given in the current authorisation.

I understand that the Ministry of Housing and Local Government will shortly be letting you know their reactions to your request for amending the authorisation. Subject to that Department's agreement, we expect the Authority to submit a revised draft for formal consideration.

I am copying this letter to Wickenden.

Yours sincerely,

J. G. Carnochan

J. G. Carnochan.

Letter already sent to Mr. Hampton - 25/9/58

I. G. K. Williams, Esq.,
United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority,
11, Charles II Street,
London, S.W.1.

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

202

Health & Safety Branch,

HS/2/7

4th September, 1958.

Dear Hampton,

You wrote to me on 19th June about the disposal of radioactive waste in the Whittle Hill Quarry and suggested the terms of the draft for us to send to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. In this draft you suggested that the authorisation could be re-drafted to cover three-monthly instead of monthly periods. We passed on this request to the Ministry and have now had a reply from Wickenden of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to Williams.

The Ministry are apparently prepared to take a more favourable view of an immediate amendment in this case than they were in the case of the Windscale liquid disposal. I enclose a copy of Wickenden's letter which I think is self-explanatory. If you are prepared to agree to the suggestion set out in the second paragraph of that letter please let me know and I will reply to Wickenden accordingly and ask him to arrange an alteration of the present authorisation. Would you also please at the same time confirm that there is no intention to increase the amount of waste to be disposed of in the quarry?

Yours sincerely,

E. A. Balfour

G. H. Hampton, Esq.,
U.K. Atomic Energy Authority,
Industrial Group Headquarters,
Risley,
Warrington,
Lancs.

S2a

MINISTRY OF HOUSING & LOCAL GOVERNMENT
WHITEHALL, LONDON, SW1

Our Reference 91236/61/1

Your Reference



Telegrams: Locaplan, Parl, London

Telephone: WHItEhall 4300

Extension

2nd September, 1958.

Dear Williams,

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 26th June to Carnochan about the discharge of solid radioactive waste into Whittle Hill Quarry. I note that you have taken steps to ensure that the importance of not exceeding the terms of the authorisation is fully understood.

On technical grounds there would be no objection to an amendment to regulate the discharges over a three-monthly rather than a monthly period. There are of course general arguments against the frequent revision of authorisations which I mentioned in my letter of 1st August on the Windscale authorisation. I do not think they would apply with quite the same force here, provided you were content with a single amending authorisation substituting 'thirty tons', 'any three consecutive calendar months', and '750 tons', or something on those lines, for the limiting quantities and periods stipulated in 1(c) of the authorisation dated 24th March, 1958. In that event we would not feel obliged to consult any local interest beforehand on the amendment because the adjustment would be a very minor one compared with what we have been discussing for

/Windscale.

I.G.K. Williams, Esq.,
United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority,
11, Charles II Street,
S.W.1.

Windscale. I understand that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food have no objection; if you would like us to proceed on these lines please let me know.

I should mention that shortly after the current authorisation was issued an informal approach was made by Springfields to our technical people to find out whether they might discharge to the quarry certain wastes which, from the information given, appeared not to be covered by the authorisation. As you will appreciate we could not feel so happy about an amendment to cover additional wastes at this stage, but it may be that this point is no longer being pursued.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Carnochan.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T.D. Wickenden', written over a horizontal line.

(T.D. WICKENDEN)



IP
ABBEY
9030

Our Ref: Z.867

149 67
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food
Dean Bradley House
Horseferry Road
London S.W.1

15th July, 1958

693
Dear Williams, ~~12/10/57~~ PA

Thank you for your letter of 26th June about the discharge of waste to Whittle Hill Quarry, I have asked Wortley to look into the suggestion in your third paragraph with Kenny and Dunster and I will let you know outcome in due course.

Yours sincerely,

J. G. CARNOCHAN

I. G. K. Williams, Esq.,
United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority,
11, Charles II Street,
London, S.W.1.

MUSEum 6838
Extn. 1597

20th July, 1956.

Dear Vincent,

On 1st August 1954 your Ministry issued two authorisations for the disposal of radioactive waste into Whittle Hill Quarry near Preston. One authorisation was for the disposal of waste from the Authority's establishment at Capenhurst and the other was for disposal of waste from the Authority's establishment at Springfields. The third paragraph of each authorisation reads as follows:-

"3. This authorisation may be varied by the Minister at any time after reasonable notice to the Authority."

We have now heard from the Headquarters of Industrial Group at Risley that there are certain differences in the two authorisations which render the working of them difficult in practice. The Capenhurst authorisation permits the disposal of material estimated to contain not more than 0.1% of uranium by weight, whereas the figure for Springfields is given as not more than 0.25% of uranium by weight. The quantity of waste to be discharged is not to exceed 10 tons a month in the case of Capenhurst and 100 tons a month in the case of Springfields. It is clear that the authorisations refer to contamination with natural uranium.

In view of this and other anomalies in the authorisations, the matter has been carefully investigated at Risley and a report considered by the Works General Management Committee. The Committee have asked me to approach you with a view to obtaining the Minister's approval to the following alterations in the authorisations:-

- (i) There should be one single authorisation covering disposals at Whittle Hill Quarry from both Springfields and Capenhurst.
- (ii) This authorisation should permit the disposal of solid waste estimated to contain not more than 0.25% of natural uranium by weight or an equivalent amount of activity from uranium of higher specific activity.
- (iii) No limit should be placed on the weight of waste disposal since this has little or no bearing on any health issues which have to be considered.

If, however, there is some other reason why the authorising Ministers decide to impose a limit on the rate of discharge into the quarry, then the Authority would seek approval for a figure of 250 tons/month. This is likely to be adequate until 1960.

A.L. Vincent, Esq.,
Ministry of Housing & Local
Government,
Water Division,
WHITEHALL, S.W.1.

/I

U.6a.

MINISTRY OF HOUSING & LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

WHITEHALL, LONDON, SW1

Any reply to this letter should be
addressed to THE SECRETARY,
quoting reference



Telephone: WHItchall 4300

Extension.....

.....
Your reference..... **Legal/17**

Telegrams: Locaplan, Parl,
London

25th September, 1954.

Dear Highton,

Thank you very much for the information which you sent with your letter of 17th September about the disposal of waste in Whittle Hill Quarry.

Yours sincerely,

(A. L. VINCENT)

C. J. Highton, Esq.,
United Kingdom Atomic Energy
Authority,
St. Giles Court,
1-13, St. Giles High Street,
LONDON, W.C.2.

I am now writing to ask you to approve these alterations in the present authorisations. It may be that you will wish to send an inspector to either or both of the factories, in which case we should be very pleased to see him at any time. I am copying this letter to Mr. J.A.K. Christie of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food who signed the authorisation from his Ministry at the same time as Miss Jenkins signed the one from your Ministry.

Yours sincerely,

~~John Parkin~~
(J. PARKIN)

2/5 E.4

xxx 6838
1580

Legal/17

17th September, 1954.

Dear Vincent,

With reference to your enquiry over the telephone recently about the disposal of waste in Whittle Hill Quarry, I enclose a copy of a letter which I have received from the Industrial Group Headquarters at Risley.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) G. J. Hewlett

A. L. Vincent, Esq.,
Ministry of Housing and Local Government,
Whitehall,
S.W.1.

2/5 E.3
UNITED KINGDOM ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY

INDUSTRIAL GROUP HEADQUARTERS,

Telegrams : "Aten" Warrington
Telephone : Warrington 2170

P.O. BOX 19,

Extn. 104

RISLEY,

Our Ref FFE/GV

WARRINGTON,

Your Ref

LANCS.

16th September, 1954.

Dear Highton,

Whittle Hill Quarry

In making arrangements for the disposal of our normal factory waste, it has always been our policy to consult the local authority at a very early stage and to obtain their formal agreement.

This procedure was followed in the case of the Whittle Hill Quarry with the local authority, the "Chorley Rural District Council". We had discussions with their surveyor resulting in the following proposal:-

That we should dump in the quarry raising the level to within 10 to 15 feet of road level and then fill in with surrounding over burden, and that during this time we would enclose the area with an unclimbable fence. The material to be dumped would be "non-combustible construction material, broken graphite equipment, fluospar arising from process slags and ashes, other solid scrap containing no soluble chemicals liable to cause any damage." None of the materials present

/significant

C. J. Highton, Esq.,
U.K.A.E.A.,
St. Giles Court,
LONDON, W.C.2.

significant abnormal features nor undergoes any decomposition which would cause a subsidence. The fluospar is insoluble in water".

The Clerk to the Council wrote to us on 22nd October 1952, accepting the proposals.

This waste is far less dangerous than wastes from the average chemical manufacturer and it contains insignificant amounts of radio-activity. As far as possible we have tried to avoid the association with radio-active waste as this could be misleading and confusing but in our own interests we have chosen our sites to meet the following conditions:-

- (1) It should be isolated and not part of a development area.
- (2) The drainage from the site should not connect with any water supplies in the locality which might be used as drinking water, for industrial purposes or in agriculture.

As in other cases we have consulted the Geological Survey Branch and in the use of Whittle Quarry, they have stated that there is no likelihood of filtration into any local water supply.

/We

We have already dumped 2,000 tons into the quarry and we have regularly taken samples of free standing water in the quarry and samples from a nearby stream. The quarry water contains less radioactivity than the level which is internationally accepted as satisfactory for drinking over a lifespan of 70 years and the stream contains no activity.

Yours sincerely,

M. Page

for (F. R. Farmer)
for Director, Operations.

2/5 E.1

xxx 6838
1580

9th September, 1954.

Dear Stewart,

Whittle Hill Quarry

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government have been reviewing the authorisations they have given in the light of the trouble that is brewing in the Forest of Dean. They granted the authorisation for the disposal of waste at Whittle Hill Quarry on Kenny's assurance that the local authority had been fully consulted by the Ministry of Supply before, arrangements were made to discharge waste there: but Kenny has gone away for a month's leave and they have asked me whether I can obtain confirmation that this is the case and that the local authority are perfectly happy about the matter.

Yours sincerely,

J.C.C. Stewart, Esq.,
United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority,
Industrial Group,
Risley,
Warrington,
Lancs.

Mr. Vincent asked me to see
L this by telephone today
CJS