

Dept of Health & Environment Memo 8/9/85



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Dorothy said that the main source of RAM she handled was in the form of contaminated metal (Monel and Incanel?) purchased from the labs in Oak Ridge. However, she said that it was not unusual for them to handle chunks of Uranium metal. She claimed that she knew it was Uranium because it would spark when you picked it up or rubbed it against something. Dorothy then called Ms. Brenda Hunley (no relation) so that I might talk with her about how she remembered working conditions at Witherspoons. Brenda had worked for Witherspoon as a metal sorter for 9 years (both ladies were laid off in 1983 - Brenda now works at "Screen Art"). Brenda agreed that she had worked with a lot of RAM - mostly contaminated Monel & Incanel but quite a bit of Uranium in the form of chunks. Brenda also said that Uranium would spark when you rubbed it against something.

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Dorothy was issued gloves but didn't always wear them and she never wore any type of respiratory protection. She said that she has seen the warehouse full of Monel and the geiger counters would be going offscale (she said they seldom surveyed their RAM) she said you could tell if a metal was contaminated because of the green tint it would have on its surface.

Dorothy said she has used an electric grinder many times on all types of metal including contaminated and Incanel (she said that the Monel they received was almost always found contaminated when they surveyed it). The only other piece of machinery she used was a bailer. However, contaminated material was not bailed.

BF/wg

RH #2 Disc