

Sensor and Guidance Products

Honeywell Inc.
2600 Ridgway Parkway
Minneapolis MN 55413
612 951-1000

20 April, 2000

**US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Regional Administrator
Region III
801 Warrenville Rd.
Lisle, IL 60532**

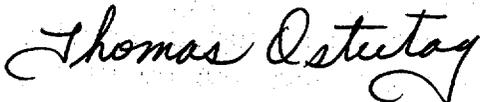
RE: NRD Air Ionizer; Model P-2021-3000; S/N 115737; 10 millicuries, Po210.

Greetings:

Our facility uses air ionizer cartridges from NRD in our Manufacturing processes to eliminate static electricity and reduce the particulates found on parts in the Production process. An ionizer was reported missing to me 23 March 2000 by our buyer who was asked to replace the missing unit. The ionizer was used on Station #1 in our Cleanroom. The gun in which the ionizer was used was found broken on the floor with the cartridge missing. On 4 February 2000, the cognizant engineer interviewed employees, custodians, and other engineers and did a search of the cleanroom to try and locate the unit. Pictures of a similar unit were taken, enlarged and posted on all entrances and exits to the cleanroom. No response was forthcoming regarding the unit. The Supervisor in the area and I also did a search of the area, but at different times and found nothing. The most probable explanation for the loss is that the ionizer was picked up by someone in the area not familiar with the devices and threw it in the trash. The trash is picked up and eventually placed in a landfill in Anoka County. The device is completely sealed and if buried poses no threat of exposure. The half-life of polonium is short enough that after a year only 16% of the original radioactivity is still present.

To prevent this from reoccurring, training of the operators and engineers in the area will be done to keep those using the units and those in the cleanroom area informed as to proper handling procedures. Training materials are being acquired from NRD for this purpose.

Sincerely,



Thomas Ostertag

CC: Lou Branca