



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET SW SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931**

May 9, 2000

Middle Peninsula Landfill and Recycle Facility
ATTN: Greg Enterline
District Manager
3714 Waste Management Way
Glenns, VA 23149

**SUBJECT: POSSESSION OF SEAMAN NUCLEAR CORPORATION MODEL R-50
PORTABLE MOISTURE METER**

Dear Mr. Enterline:

As we discussed in a telephone conversation on May 8, 2000, you are in possession of the subject device which contains approximately 40 millicuries of Americium-241. This device was inappropriately placed in ordinary trash for disposal by unknown individuals and was delivered to your facility for burial in a landfill. On May 5, 2000, as a result of your staff's diligence while sorting through the incoming refuse for materials which are not authorized for disposal in the landfill, this device was identified, removed and placed in secure storage.

You notified our office of your receipt and possession of this device and we requested the assistance of the Commonwealth of Virginia's Bureau of Radiological Health (BRH) to assess the condition of the device. A BRH staff member arrived at the site on May 5, 2000, and through observations and a radiation survey of the device, determined that the device was intact and that the dose rates from the device were low and as expected for this type of device. This individual also performed a test to determine if radioactive material had leaked from the device's sealed source and found that it had not. Based on this assessment, we have concluded that this device can be safely stored at your facility for a short period of time until it is transferred to an authorized recipient.

As we discussed, you have agreed to keep this device in a secured storage location until such time as we have arranged for its transfer to an authorized recipient. We are currently pursuing several options for this transfer and plan to have the device removed from your facility shortly.

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We greatly appreciate your staff's efforts in preventing this device from being inappropriately disposed by burial in the landfill and your cooperation in securing this device until we can arrange for its proper disposal. If you have any questions regarding this issue please contact Mr. Jay L. Henson of my staff at 404 562-4738.

Sincerely,

Original signed by M. Lesser for:

Douglas M. Collins, Director
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

cc: Commonwealth of Virginia

OFFICE	RII:DNMS							
SIGNATURE	JLH 5/9/00							
NAME	JHenson							
DATE	5/ /2000	5/ /2000	5/ /2000	5/ /2000	5/ /2000	5/ /2000	5/ /2000	5/ /2000
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

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