



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

May 25, 2000

NMED No. 000228

General Electric Company
GE Plastics
ATTN: Tammy Morrow
Washington Site
Radiation Safety Officer
P.O. Box 68
Washington, West Virginia 26181

Dear Ms. Morrow:

We have completed our review of your report dated April 27, 2000, regarding a lost generally licensed electron capture detector (ECD) containing 0.56GBq (15 mCi) of nickel 63. You reported that the ECD had been secured in a drawer in a lab and had not been in use since 1997. The device was last seen in July 1999, however an apparent miscommunication resulted in its misplacement and eventual loss.

Your corrective action included a search of the lab on three separate occasions, a complete building search, and questioning of building and company personnel. You also checked with the vendor and other company sites to determine if they had received it. Your report contained a hazard assessment which concluded that exposure to the source would not produce a significant dose to skin, organs, or tissue. A significant internal dose could result only in the unlikely event that the source was deliberately ground or vaporized and internally ingested or inhaled. Additionally, broad corrective actions on a company-wide basis were reported in a letter dated April 21, 2000, from J. Yablonsky. They included a complete inventory of all sources at each site, confirmation of training, review of site practices by material users, review of source labeling practices, and review of site auditing procedures.

Loss of this byproduct material is considered a violation of the transfer and disposal requirements specified in 10 CFR 31.5(c)(8). The NRC's Interim Enforcement Policy relating to Generally Licensed Devices Containing Byproduct Material provides that enforcement action normally will not be taken for violations of 10 CFR 31.5 if they are identified by the general licensee, and reported to the NRC if reporting is required, and if the general licensee takes appropriate corrective action to address the specific violation and prevent recurrence of similar problems. Therefore this violation is not being cited and no response to this letter is required.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be made publicly available. Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact us.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mark S. Lesser, Chief
Materials Licensing and Inspection Branch 2

Docket No. 99-99999
License No.: General License

cc:
State of West Virginia

OFFICE	RII:DNMS	RII:EICS					
SIGNATURE	/RA/	/RA/					
NAME	D.M.Collins	C.Evans					
DATE	5/25/2000	5/25/2000	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