



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION I
475 ALLENDALE ROAD
KING OF PRUSSIA, PA 19406-1415

July 11, 2000

Docket No. 99990001

License No. General License

Frank J. Labato
Director
University of Connecticut
Department of Environmental Health and Safety
3102 Horsebarn Hill Road, U-97
Storrs, CT 06269

SUBJECT: INSPECTION 99990001/2000005, UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT, STORRS,
CONNECTICUT SITE

Dear Mr. Labato:

On June 13, 2000, John R. McGrath of this office conducted a safety inspection at the above address of activities authorized by the General License in 10 CFR 31.5. The inspection was limited to a review of the actions taken by the University regarding a lost exit sign containing tritium. Additional information provided in the telephone conversation on June 22, 2000 between June Tampkin of your organization and this office was also examined as part of the inspection. The findings of the inspection were discussed with you at the conclusion of the inspection.

Within the scope of this inspection, no violations were identified.

Please keep us informed of any developments regarding the lost exit sign.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790, a copy of this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room and will be accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html>. No reply to this letter is required.

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Judith A. Joustra

John D. Kinneman, Chief
Nuclear Materials Safety Branch 2
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

cc:

June Tampkin, Radiation Safety Officer
State of Connecticut

DOCUMENT NAME: C:\general.2000005.07122000.wpd

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OFFICE	DNMS/RI	N	DNMS/RI		DNMS/RI			
NAME	JmcGrath JRM		Jkinneman JAJ					
DATE	7/11/00		7/11/00					

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

APPENDIX A INDUSTRIAL/ACADEMIC/RESEARCH INSPECTION RECORD (IP 87110)											
REGION 1											
Insp. Report #	00-005		License #	General License			Docket #	99990001			
Licensee Name	University of Connecticut										
Street Address	3102 Horsebarn Hill Road										
City, State, Zip	Storrs, CT										
Location (Authorized Site) Being Inspected											
Licensee Contact Name			Frank Labato				Phone #	(860) 486-3613			
Priority		Program Code				Description	General Licensee				
Date of Last Inspection:			N/A			Date of This Inspection			6/13/00		
Type of Insp.	Announced			Routine			Initial				
	Unannounced			Special		X					
Next Insp. Date				Normal		Reduced		Extended			
Justification for change in normal inspection frequency:											
Summary of Findings and Actions											
No violations, Clear 591 or letter issued					X	Non-cited violations					
Violation(s), 591 issued				Violation(s), letter issued							
Follow up on previous violations:											
Inspector - Printed Name			John R. McGrath								
- Signature			/RA/					Date	6/23/00		
Approved - Printed Name			John D. Kinneman								
- Signature			/RA/					Date	6/23/00		

PART I-LICENSE, INSPECTION, INCIDENT/EVENT, AND ENFORCEMENT HISTORY		
1.	AMENDMENTS AND PROGRAM CHANGES	
License amendments issued since last inspection, or program changes noted in the license.		
Amendment No.	Date	Subject
N/A		
2.	INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT HISTORY	
Unresolved issues; previous and repeat violations; Confirmatory Action Letters; and orders.		

None

3.

INCIDENT/EVENT HISTORY

List any incidents or events reported to NRC since the last inspection. Citing "None" indicates that regional event logs, event files, and the licensing file have no evidence of any incidents or events since the last inspection.

“Lost” exit sign containing 7 curies of tritium.

On May 10, 2000, the University of Connecticut notified the NRC Operations Center of the possible loss of a generally licensed, self-illuminating exit sign. The sign, a Shield Source, Inc., Model No. 101 containing 7 curies of tritium, was obtained by the University in 1993. The Waring Chemistry Building is undergoing renovations converting the labs to classrooms and offices. During a walk through of the building, 11 exit signs were collected. According the licensee, at one exit from the building, a sign appeared to have been installed, but was now missing. The position on the wall where the sign would have been installed gave the appearance that mounting brackets had been present at one time, however, the licensee did not maintain an inventory of these signs so they have no positive method of determining that a sign was actually at that location, but are assuming that one was there and therefor missing.

On May 19, the University sent a memo to all Deans, Director and Department Heads of the University requesting their assistance in locating the exit sign. The memo described the sign and indicated that the sign contained radioactive material. It stated that the sign posed no hazard, but requested that anyone having information about the sign contact the Division of Public Safety or the Environmental Health and Safety Department at the University. The incident was also reported to the University Police.

The licensee is also contacting the Purchasing Department and the Department of Residential Life to ascertain if anyone in the University kept receipt records or an inventory o the devices. The licensee was provided the information that was available in the NRC GL database to assist in the investigation. The Department of Environmental Health and Safety is planning to conduct its own inventory of devices currently on campus and recommend to administration that the sign be disposed of.

The University appears to have done and is doing all that it can to address the incident and is in compliance with NRC requirements.

PART II - INSPECTION DOCUMENTATION

NOTE: References that correspond to each inspection documentation topic are in Inspection Procedure 87110, Appendix B, “Industrial/Academic/Research Inspection References.”

The inspection documentation part is to be used by the inspector to assist with the performance of the inspection. Note that not all areas indicated in this part are required to be addressed during each inspection. However, for those areas not covered during the inspection, a notation ("Not Reviewed" or "Not Applicable") should be made in each section, where applicable.

All areas covered during the inspection should be documented in sufficient detail to describe what activities and procedures were observed and/or demonstrated. In addition, the types of records that were reviewed and the time periods covered by those records should be noted. If the licensee demonstrated any practices at your request, describe those demonstrations. The observations and demonstrations you describe in this report, along with measurements and some records review, should substantiate your inspection findings. Attach copies of all licensee documents and records needed to support violations.

1.	ORGANIZATION AND SCOPE OF PROGRAM
Management organizational structure; authorized locations of use, including field offices and temporary job sites; type, quantity, and frequency of material use; staff size; delegation of authority.	
The University also has a specific license. The radiation safety function is under the Department of Environmental Health and Safety, Frank Labato, Director. In terms of the University status as a general licensee, NRC records showed other departments, such as Residential Life or "Biobehavioral" as being the point of contact for the Shield Source exit signs. The report also includes other contacts for other generally licensed items. The Department of Environmental Health and Safety is attempting to contact these individuals, but some are no longer with the University.	
2.	MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT
Management support to radiation safety; Radiation Safety Committee (RSC); Radiation Safety Officer (RSO); program audits, including annual reviews of program and as low as is reasonably achievable (ALARA) reviews; control by authorized users.	
N/I	
3.	FACILITIES
Facilities as described; uses; control of access; engineering controls; calibration facilities; shielding; air flow:	
N/I	
4.	EQUIPMENT AND INSTRUMENTATION
Operable and calibrated survey equipment; procedures; 10 CFR Part 21.	

N/I	
5.	MATERIAL USE, CONTROL, AND TRANSFER
Materials and uses authorized; security and control of licenses materials; and procedures for receipt and transfer of licensed material.	
N/I	
6.	AREA RADIATION SURVEYS AND CONTAMINATION CONTROL
Radiological surveys; air sampling; leak tests; inventories; handling of radioactive materials; contamination controls; records; and public doses.	
N/I	
7.	TRAINING AND INSTRUCTIONS TO WORKERS
Training and retraining requirements and documentation; interviews and observations of routine work; staff knowledge of all routine activities; 10 CFR Parts 19 and 20 requirements; emergency situations; and supervision by authorized users.	
N/I	
8.	RADIATION PROTECTION
Radiation protection program with ALARA provisions; external and internal dosimetry; exposure evaluations; dose and survey records and reports; annual notifications to workers; bulletins and other generic communications.	
N/I	
9.	RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT
Disposal; effluent pathways and control; storage areas; transfer; packaging, control, and tracking procedures; equipment; incinerators, hoods, vents and compactors; license conditions for special disposal method.	
N/I	
10.	DECOMMISSIONING
Records relevant to decommissioning; decommissioning plan/schedule; notification requirements; cost estimates; funding methods; financial assurance; and Timeliness Rule requirements; changes in radiological conditions since decommissioning plan was submitted.	
N/I	
11.	TRANSPORTATION

Quantities and types of licensed material shipped; packaging design requirements; shipping papers; hazardous materials (HAZMAT) communication procedures; return of sources; procedures for monitoring radiation and contamination levels of packages; HAZMAT training; and records and reports.			
N/I			
12.	NOTIFICATIONS AND REPORTS		
Reporting and followup of theft; loss; incidents; overexposures; change in RSO; authorized user; and radiation exposure reports to individuals.			
The licensee correctly reported the suspected loss of theft of a generally licensed tritium exit sign in possession of the University.			
13.	POSTING AND LABELING		
Notices; license documents; regulations; bulletins and generic information; posting of radiation areas; and labeling of containers of licensed material.			
N/I			
14.	INDEPENDENT AND CONFIRMATORY MEASUREMENTS		
Areas surveyed, both restricted and unrestricted, and measurements made; comparison of data with licensee's results and regulations; and instrument type and calibration date.			
None			
15.	VIOLATIONS, NON-CITED VIOLATIONS (NCVs), AND OTHER SAFETY ISSUES		
State requirement and how and when licensee violated the requirement. For NCVs, indicate why the violation was not cited. Attach copies of all licensee documents needed to support violations.			
None			
16.	PERSONNEL CONTACTED		
Identify licensee personnel contacted during the inspection (including those individuals contacted by telephone). Use # to indicate individual present at entrance meeting. Use * to indicate individual present at exit meeting.			
Name	Title	Phone No.	In Person or By phone
Frank Labato	Director,	860-486-1109	In person
June Tampkin	Environmental Health RSO	860-486-1108	Telephone

17.	PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FACTORS						
A.	Lack of senior management involvement with the radiation safety program and/or RSO oversight.				Y		N
B.	RSO too busy with other assignments.				Y		N
C.	Insufficient staffing.				Y		N
D.	RSC fails to meet or functions inadequately.	N/A		Y		N	
E.	Inadequate consulting services or inadequate audits conducted.	N/A		Y		N	
REMARKS :(Consider the above assessment and/or other pertinent Performance Evaluation Factors (PEFs) with regard to the licensee's oversight of the radiation safety program)							
18.	SPECIAL CONDITIONS OR ISSUES						
NONE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Special license conditions; year-2000 effects of computer software and embedded systems.					
PART III - POST- INSPECTION ACTIVITIES							
1.	REGIONAL FOLLOWUP ON PEFs						
None							
2.	DEBRIEF WITH REGIONAL STAFF						
Post-inspection communication with supervisor, regional licensing staff, Agreement State Officer; and/or State Liaison Officer.							
Briefed Branch Chief, John Kinneman							
3.	YEAR-2000 ISSUES						
Convey, to the NMSS Year-2000 Coordinator, all year-2000 licensee-identified problems and corrective actions taken.							
N/I							

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