



MIDWEST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

425 Volker Boulevard  
Kansas City, Missouri 64110  
Telephone (816) 753-7600  
Telefax (816) 753-8420

December 18, 2001

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region III  
801 Warrenville Road  
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4351

Attn: Chief, Nuclear Materials Safety Branch

MRI recently collected routine wipe samples on several GC electron-capture detectors containing nickel-63 sealed sources. This is to notify you that the amount of removable contamination on one of the sealed sources was in excess of acceptable limits. I was notified in writing on December 17 by the Radiation Detection Company that 0.0408  $\mu\text{Ci}$  of removable contamination was found on a wipe sample collected from a Shimadzu 10-mCi sealed source, model no. 221-15315-92, serial number SS-755.

The detector was not in service at the time. The source has been in storage in a sealed plastic container that is locked in a metal storage cabinet. I control the key to this cabinet. The metal cabinet is located in a locked storage area controlled by the Safety & Health Office. I have placed the source in clean plastic bags and labeled with the words "Contaminated with removable radioactivity" and "Do not use." I have collected wipe samples of the inside of the cabinet and will be sending these samples to the Radiation Detection Company for analysis.

We have been in contact with Bionomics, our radioactive waste broker, about disposal of the unit and have made attempts to contact Shimadzu, but have not yet received a call back. We plan to either dispose of it as radioactive waste or return it to Shimadzu, if they prefer that option. The source remains locked in the metal cabinet. If you have any questions, please call me at 816-753-7600, Ext 1574 or email me at [jmchugh@mriresearch.org](mailto:jmchugh@mriresearch.org).

Sincerely;

James M. McHugh  
Radiation Safety Officer

DEC 19 2001