



Department of Physics

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Bryan Parker
United States Nuclear Regulator Commission
Region II
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, NW
Suite 23T85
Atlanta, GA 30303-8931

Dear Mr. Parker,

I am writing this letter to inform the Nuclear Regulatory Commission of a radioactive source which is missing from our inventory. As you know, in June, 2002, I assumed the duties as Radiation Safety Officer for the Physics Department at the College of William and Mary. This change was made to replace Dr. Herbert Funsten who has now retired from the college. Once assuming this responsibility, I performed a thorough inventory and organization of our radioactive sources and documentation. During my inventory on June 25, 2002, I discovered a tag on our storage shelf for a ^{60}Co source (#12), but the source was missing. This is a 1" diameter metal disk source. Our records show it came to William and Mary in January, 1970 with an activity of $10\mu\text{Ci}$. Based on this information, and the 5.3 year half-life of this isotope, its present activity is $0.13\mu\text{Ci}$.

Upon further review of Dr. Funsten's records, it was first noted as missing on his inventory of June 5, 2001. The source was last checked out on 1/24/01 by an authorized user for use in room 203 for a teaching lab, and was recorded as returned on 2/15/01. Several extensive searches have been performed in the physics building but have not been successful in locating the source. We have therefore concluded that this source is missing and are reporting this event to your office.

It is my opinion that this source was not stolen, but inadvertently became unattached from its tag and was not noticed until the inventory was done. Please note that our department has been diligent in adhering to all regulations from your agency in the past years. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me personally.

Regards,

Todd Averett
Assistant Professor of Physics