



March 19, 2003

Darrel Wiedeman
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region III
801 Warrenville Road
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4351

Subject: Follow Up to Report of Missing Nuclear Static Eliminator

Dear Mr. Wiedeman:

On March 4, 2003 3M reported a missing Model P2001 Nuclear Static Eliminator containing 0.25 millicuries of Po-210 at the time of loss. The report was made by phone to the NRC Operations Center in accordance with 10 CFR 20.2201(a)(ii) as it does not appear that exposure to persons in unrestricted areas would result from this loss. This letter is to meet the requirement 10 CFR 20.2201(b) for a written report.

The licensed material is in a nuclear static eliminator (serial number A2BG425) manufactured and distributed by NRD of Grand Island, New York. The device has a two inch active length and an original activity of 4.5 millicuries at the time of manufacture in August, 2001.

On January 6, 2003 a total of 60 accumulated devices at the end of their useful life were packaged for return shipment to NRD. Forty two of the devices, including the device in question, were packaged in one container. A list of the serial numbers of the packaged devices made by the technician doing the packaging includes the serial number of the missing device.

On or about February 10, 2003 letters of receipt confirmation were received from NRD. We noted that device A2BG425 was not listed and notified NRD of the discrepancy. NRD stated they would conduct a search for the device. A search was conducted of the 3M area where the shipment packaging took place. On March 3, 2003 NRD notified our office that they were unable to locate the device. Following

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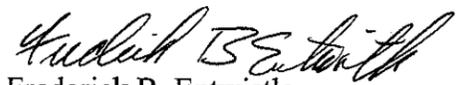
a final, complete search of possible locations at 3M, we concluded on March 4 the device was missing.

The probable disposition of the device is inadvertent disposal with scrap packaging material at NRD. Significant exposures of individuals to radiation are unlikely. No removable contamination ($<1.5 \times 10^{-6} \mu\text{Ci}$) was present on the device as measured by leak tests on 8/7/2001, 2/28/2002 and 8/13/2002. The primary radiation from the device is alpha radiation resulting in no exposure from an intact device. Gamma radiation would be at an extremely low level. Based on the current activity of the device, the projected exposure would be less than for devices generally licensed under 10 CFR 31.3(a).

Actions taken to recover the material were extensive searches at both 3M and NRD. To assure against recurrence, 3M will be providing with each return shipment a listing of all devices returned by serial number. This will allow NRD to determine that all shipped devices are accounted for at the time of receipt.

If you have questions on this matter or require further information, please contact me at 651/736-0740.

Sincerely,



Frederick B. Entwistle
Corporate Radiation Safety Officer