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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL SAFETY AND SAFEGUARDS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

May 27, 1988

NRC INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 88-33: RECENT PROBLEMS INVOLVING THE MODEL
SPEC 2-T RADIOGRAPHIC EXPOSURE DEVICE

Addressees:

All Agreement States and NRC licensees authorized to manufacture, distribute or operate radiographic exposure devices and source changers.

Purpose:

This notice is provided to alert licensees of the occurrence of a recent transportation accident which occurred in Houston, Texas involving a Model SPEC 2-T radiographic exposure device (NRC Certification of Compliance (COC) No. 9056). It is suggested that licensees review this information for applicability to their operations involving transportation of radiography devices. However, suggestions contained in this notice do not constitute new NRC requirements; therefore, no specific action or written response is required.

Description of Circumstances:

In this accident, the device fell off the rear of a truck onto the roadway, where it subsequently was struck by another vehicle. The device became jammed beneath the vehicle and was dragged for a considerable distance along the roadway. At some point in the accident, the source and the device became separated. The source was found lying in the roadway. This accident is currently under review by the State of Texas (an Agreement State), the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), and this Agency. At this point, it is unclear as to whether the source became separated as a result of the stress of scraping along the roadway, or as a result of its initial impact with the roadway.

Although the review is not completed, several issues and facts have surfaced which should be brought to the attention of licensees. These are described below.

Discussion:

1. Some Model SPEC 2-T devices may have been fabricated without the internal polyurethane material which is foamed in place between the outer shell and the internal depleted uranium shield. The NRC is attempting to obtain additional information on this matter and will provide further information to licensees/users, as appropriate.

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2. Some Model SPEC 2-T devices, which have been distributed to users, may not conform to the drawing referenced in NRC COC No. 9056, issued March 12, 1986. The NRC is attempting to determine if this variance is significant.
3. All users are reminded that operation and transportation of radiography devices must be in accordance with applicable NRC, Agreement State, and U.S. DOT regulations. Licensees are cautioned that the safety of such devices in transportation depends, in part, on the proper securing of plugs and lock mechanisms before the device is transported. Licensees should assure that the procedures specified in the COC are followed in preparing the device for transportation. Users of NRC-certified radiography devices must register with the NRC in accordance with the requirements of §§ 10 CFR 71.12 and 49 CFR 173.471.

The manufacturer of the Model SPEC 2-T is:

Source Production and Equipment Company
ATTN: R. D. Dicharry
625 Oxley Street
Kenner, LA 70062
Telephone: 504/464/9471 (Telex 46156)

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the appropriate NRC Regional Office or this office.


Robert F. Burnett, Director
Division of Safeguards and
Transportation
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Technical Contact: C. E. MacDonald, NMSS
(301) 492-3382

Agreement State Contact: D. A. Nussbaumer, GPA
(301) 492-0326

Attachment: List of Recently Issued NRC Information Notices

LIST OF RECENTLY ISSUED
 NRC INFORMATION NOTICES

Information Notice No.	Subject	Date of Issuance	Issued to
88-32	Prompt Reporting to NRC of Significant Incidents Involving Radioactive Material	5/25/88	All NRC materials licensees.
88-31	Steam Generator Tube Rupture Analysis Deficiency	5/25/88	All holders of OLs or CPs for Westinghouse and Combustion Engineering-designed nuclear power plants.
88-30	Target Rock Two-Stage SRV Setpoint Drift Update	5/25/88	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
88-29	Deficiencies in Primary Containment Low-Voltage Electrical Penetration Assemblies	5/24/88	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
88-28	Potential for Loss of Post-LOCA Recirculation Capability Due to Insulation Debris Blockage	5/19/88	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
88-27	Deficient Electrical Terminations Identified in Safety-Related Components	5/18/88	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
85-35, Supplement 1	Failure of Air Check Valves to Seat	5/17/88	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
88-26	Falsified Pre-Employment Screening Records	5/16/88	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors and all major fuel facility licensees.

OL = Operating License
 CP = Construction Permit

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Ellen Kraus, Editor 5/20/88 *sr

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