

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

January 10, 1985

IE INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 85-01: CONTINUOUS SUPERVISION OF IRRADIATORS

Addressees:

All licensees possessing irradiators that are not self-shielded and contain more than 10,000 curies of radioactive material.

Purpose:

This information notice is provided to alert recipients of a potential safety hazard and violation of NRC license requirements which can arise if licensees do not provide continuous supervision of large irradiator operations. "Large" irradiators are those which contain more than 10,000 curies of radioactive material and which are not self-shielded. Although proper supervision and security also is important for smaller irradiators, they are not the subject of this notice.

It is expected that licensees will review this notice for applicability to their facilities, if appropriate, to preclude a similar problem occurring at their facilities. However, suggestions contained in this information notice do not constitute NRC requirements; therefore, no specific action or written response is required.

Description of Circumstances:

Some large irradiators operate 24 hours per day. Recently a case came to our attention in which an irradiator was left operating overnight totally unattended. The irradiator license specifically required the physical presence of a fully trained supervisor whenever the irradiator was in use. This provision of the license is consistent with NRC policy and good safety practice that large irradiators should be continuously attended by a fully trained supervisor except when the radioactive sources are secured in their safe storage position. Compliance with that requirement assures that a qualified individual is immediately available to respond to emergencies or other problems. Note that 10 CFR 20.203(c)(6) requires that large irradiators must be equipped with entry control devices and alarms to make an individual attempting to enter the exposure area aware of the hazard and to alert at least one other individual who is familiar with the irradiator and prepared to render or summon assistance.

The NRC is closely reviewing this matter during inspections and licensing actions. Most irradiator licenses explicitly state that a trained person must be physically present whenever the irradiator is being used. The NRC regional office will contact separately any irradiator licensee whose license may not be clear with respect to physical presence.

No specific action or written response is required by this information notice. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact the Material Licensing Branch (301) 427-4203 in NRC Headquarters or the materials licensing section of your NRC regional office.



J. Nelson Grace, Director
Division of Quality Assurance, Safeguards,
and Inspection Programs
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

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(301) 427-4203

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Attachment:
List of Recently Issued IE Information Notices

LIST OF RECENTLY ISSUED
IE INFORMATION NOTICES

Information Notice No.	Subject	Date of Issue	Issued to
84-94	Reconcentration Of Radio-nuclides Involving Discharges Into Sanitary Sewage Systems Permitted Under 10 CFR 20.303	12/21/84	All NRC materials licensees other than licensees that use sealed sources only
84-93	Potential For Loss Of Water From The Refueling Cavity	12/17/84	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
84-92	Cracking of Flywheel on Cummins Fire Pump Diesel Engines	12/17/84	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
84-91	Quality Control Problem Of Meteorological Measurements Problems	12/10/84	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
84-90	Main Steam Line Break Effect On Environmental Qualification Of Equipment	12/7/84	All pressurized water reactor and gas cooled power facilities holding an OL or CP
84-89	Stress Corrosion Cracking In Nonsensitized 316 Stainless Steel	12/7/84	All boiling water reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
84-88	Standby Gas Treatment System Problems	12/3/84	All boiling water reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
84-87	Piping Thermal Deflection Induced By Stratified Flow	12/3/84	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
84-86	Isolation Between Signals Of The Protection System And Non-Safety-Related Equipment	11/30/84	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP

OL = Operating License
CP = Construction Permit