

LIS ORIGINAL

SSINS No. 6835
IN 86-31, Supplement 1

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

July 14, 1986

IE INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 86-31, SUPPLEMENT 1: UNAUTHORIZED TRANSFER AND LOSS
OF CONTROL OF INDUSTRIAL
NUCLEAR GAUGES

Addressees:

All NRC general licensees that possess and use industrial nuclear gauges.

Purpose:

This supplement provides additional information and alerts recipients of a potentially significant problem involving nuclear gauges. It is expected that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, if appropriate, to preclude a similar problem from occurring at their facilities. Primarily this concerns authorized transfer of nuclear gauges and notification to the NRC when a general licensee transfers a gauge to another person. However, suggestions contained in this information notice do not constitute NRC requirements; therefore, no specific action or written response is required.

Description of Circumstances:

It was determined during recent NRC inspections that some licensees authorized to use industrial nuclear gauges containing sealed radioactive sources were discontinuing operations without taking adequate provisions for transfer of the gauges. The licensees also had failed to notify the NRC of their intent to discontinue operations, thus denying the NRC the opportunity of inspecting the closeout procedures.

A recent inspection at one licensee's facility demonstrated how the failure to properly transfer and to properly notify the NRC resulted in the loss of control of a nuclear gauge that contained a significant quantity of cobalt-60. The plant and all its equipment, including the gauge, was sold in 1981 to a non-licensee. Some time later, the non-licensee ceased operations and sold the plant and equipment to a salvage company. In late 1984, employees of the salvage company, unaware that the gauge contained a radioactive source, used a cutting torch on the gauge in an attempt to salvage some of the metal on the device. Fortunately, the sealed source itself was not damaged. However, the shutter mechanism was damaged such that radiation levels at the open port of the gauge caused an employee to receive a significant radiation exposure.

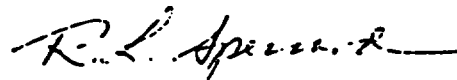
Copies to: Withers, Yundt, Lentsch, Orser, Steele, E. Burton, E. Jordan, A. Holm, EIS;
C. A. Olmstead, S. Hoag, S. Sautter, R. Johnson, TNP;GOV REL F:NRC CHRONO,
TNP;GOV REL F:NRC IE Information Notice 86-31, Suppl. 1, C. Goodwin,
T. Kingston

PGE Action - T. D. Walt (Due 9/1/86)
"No OAR to be Issued"

Discussion:

Licensees possessing and using industrial nuclear gauges under the provision of 10 CFR 31 should be aware of their responsibilities as specified in 10 CFR 31.5 (c)(6), (8), (9), and (10). These provisions of the regulation prohibit abandonment of a gauge containing byproduct material, specify authorized persons to whom a gauge may be transferred, and require a report to the Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555 for all transfer of gauges except for the purpose of obtaining a replacement.

No specific action or written response is required by this information notice. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact the Regional Administrator of the appropriate NRC regional office or this office.



James G. Partlow, Director *for*
Division of Inspection Programs
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

Technical Contact: J. R. Metzger, IE
(301) 492-4947

Attachment: List of Recently Issued IE Information Notices

LIST OF RECENTLY ISSUED
IE INFORMATION NOTICES

Information Notice No.	Subject	Date of Issue	Issued to
86-59	Increased Monitoring Of Certain Patients With Implanted Coratomic, Inc, Model C-100 And C-101 Nuclear-Powered Caridac Pacemakers	7/14/86	All licensees authorized to use nuclear-powered cardiac pacemakers
86-58	Dropped Fuel Assembly	7/11/86	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
86-57	Operating Problems With Solenoid Operated Valves At Nuclear Power Plants	7/11/86	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
86-56	Reliability Of Main Steam Safety Valves	7/10/86	All PWR facilities holding an OL or CP
86-55	Delayed Access To Safety-Related Areas And Equipment During Plant Emergencies	7/10/86	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
86-54	Criminal Prosecution Of A Former Radiation Safety Officer Who Willfully Directed An Unqualified Individual To Perform Radiography	6/27/86	All holders of by-product, source, or special nuclear material
86-53	Improper Use Of Heat Shrinkable Tubing	6/26/86	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
86-52	Conductor Insulation Degradation On Foxboro Model E Controllers	6/26/86	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
86-51	Excessive Pneumatic Leakage In The Automatic Depressurization System	6/18/86	All BWR facilities holding an OL or CP

OL = Operating License
CP = Construction Permit