

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION RECORD	Date: August 30, 2004	Time: 14:00
Mail Control No.: N/A Inspection No.: N/A	License No.: General	Docket No.: 999-90001
Person Calling: John Becker	Licensee: C. W. Thomas, Inc.	Telephone No.: 215-335-0200
Person Called: Steven Courtemanche/(610) 337-5075		
Subject: Loss of a Po-210 static eliminator.		
<p><u>Summary:</u> Mr. Becker called to inquire about the reporting requirements for the loss of a sealed source. The source was a 1 millicurie (nominal) Polonium-210 source manufactured as part of a static eliminator air gun by NRD, Inc. under a general license. The device was lost on either August 2 or 9, 2004. The air gun is attached to an air hose and placed on a hook. The air gun is made of light plastic with a metal tip which houses the sealed source. Mr. Becker hypothesizes that the air gun was knocked off its hook and fell to the floor causing the tip to break off. The worker replaced the air gun on the hook but failed to notice the condition of the air gun. At the end of each shift, the floor is swept and the trash placed in a dumpster which is picked up on a daily basis by a waste disposal firm. The next shift attempted to use the air gun and found it not to be functional. Mr. Becker was notified and a search was made of the premises and the trash on the next day.</p> <p>I examined the regulations and determined that the reporting requirement was in 10 CFR 20.2201(a). Since the source exceeded the Part 20 Appendix C value for Polonium-210 by greater than 1000 times, an immediate telephone report to the NRC Operations Center was required. I informed Mr. Becker of the requirements and asked why it took him so long to begin the reporting process.</p> <p>Mr. Becker stated that he had contacted the manufacturer once the search of the facility and the trash had failed to recover the sealed source and was told that he should contact the PA DEP. He was not informed of the need for immediate notification and asked the representative for the information in writing. Once he received the letter, Mr. Becker stated that he contacted a representative of the PA DEP. The representative informed Mr. Becker that PA was not an Agreement State and therefore the air gun was under the jurisdiction of the NRC. Mr. Becker called the manufacturer and told them of their error and requested a letter containing contact information for the NRC. Mr. Becker received the letter on August 29, 2004.</p> <p>I thanked Mr. Becker for the information, informed him of the 30-day written report requirement in 10 CFR 20.2201 and how to view the regulations on the NRC web site.</p>		
Action Required/Taken: Place into ADAMS.		
Prepared by Steven Courtemanche	Date: August 31, 2004	