



December 5, 2002

Mr. Darrel Wiedeman
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region III
801 Warrenville Road
Lisle, IL 60532-4351

Subject: Recovery of Generally Licensed Device Previously Reported as Lost

Dear Mr. Wiedeman:

In a letter dated June 20, 2001, 3M reported to the NRC the details regarding the apparent loss of a generally licensed nuclear static eliminator. 3M has just learned that the device in question was, subsequent to our report, returned to the device manufacturer for disposal. Following is the information we possess on this matter.

Previously reported in our letter of June 21, 2001:

In August 2000 an NRD Model 2021 in-line static eliminator containing 10 mCi of Po-210 was leased to W. L. Gore Company's Eau Claire, Wisconsin, facility. The device was received by W. L. Gore and installed on a piece of equipment on approximately August 10, 2000. The equipment, with the nuclear static eliminator installed, was shipped to the equipment manufacturer, Everett Charles, for an upgrade on September 6, 2000. The equipment was returned to W. L. Gore on October 22, 2000. 3M announced intent to purchase the W. L. Gore facility on September 12, 2000, and completed the acquisition in November 2000. On March 14, 2001, 3M Corporate Health Physics visited the former W. L. Gore facility and began to research the history of generally licensed device use at that facility. Through this review it was determined that the device in question was missing and had not been returned with the equipment by Everett Charles. All other generally licensed nuclear static eliminators shipped to the facility in 2000 and 2001 were accounted for. Everett Charles was contacted during the week of April 9 and requested to conduct a search for the missing device. The subsequent search at Everett Charles did not locate the device. It was believed the device had been disposed of in an industrial waste stream ultimately ending up in a landfill.

New information:

During a Corporate Health Physics review on December 3, 2002 at the 3M Eau Claire facility, a review of device receipt confirmation letters from NRD found a letter listing the device in question as having been returned to NRD. Discussions with NRD verified that Everett Charles returned the static eliminator to NRD on May 3, 2002.

A-3

DEC 9 2002

Darrel Wiedeman
December 5, 2002
Page 2 of 2

During the December 3, 2002 Corporate Health Physics visit to 3M's Eau Claire facility refresher training for the individual responsible for implementing the radiation safety program at the facility was provided. This training included discussion of the applicable NRC regulations related to nuclear static eliminators used by 3M under 3M's specific license, 22-00057-03. In addition, training focussed on compliance with 3M's corporate radiation safety program, which includes a semi-annual physical inventory program and tracking of licensed material from receipt at the facility until final disposition.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mike Lewandowski, the corporate health physicist assigned responsibility for the Eau Claire facility, at 651-737-4452.

Sincerely,



Frederick B. Entwistle
Manager, Corporate Health Physics
Corporate Radiation Safety Officer