



STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

Donald E. Williamson, MD
State Health Officer

May 17, 2005

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STP

Mr. Paul H. Lohaus, Director
Office of State and Tribal Programs
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North
11555 Rockville Pike
Third Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Re: General License Device Transfers

Dear Mr. Lohaus:

I have become aware of a situation involving the transfer of general licensed devices about which I request the NRC's input.

There is a federal program that trains first responders for terrorist attacks. The training for the eastern half of the country occurs at a federal facility in Anniston, Alabama. As part of the program, each group represented may be given a general license device that can be used to identify chemical agents and radioactivity. The device is a Smiths Detection Model APD2000 portable unit containing a 10 millicurie nickel 63 source.

This training program is administered by the Department of Justice, under Homeland Security. The devices appear to be properly transferred to the Anniston site by Smiths Detection (we receive their quarterly reports). However, to my knowledge, there is no proper transfer performed when these units are given to the various police and fire departments, etc. These devices are surely ending up all over the country, without notification to the NRC or Agreement State to which they are taken.

It is my understanding that there is another such training facility for the western half of the country, but I do not know its location.

I would like to know what the NRC's thought are on this matter. What actions or recommendations can you offer?

If you would like to discuss this further, I may be reached at 334-206-5391, or at dwalter@adph.state.al.us.

Sincerely,

David Walter, Director
Radioactive Material Licensing
Alabama Office of Radiation Control

The RSA Tower • 201 Monroe Street • Montgomery, AL 36104
P.O. Box 303017 • Montgomery, AL 36130-3017

SISP Review Complete

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RIDS: SP06

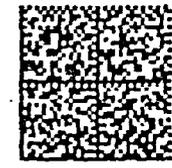
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Attn: Paul H. Lohaus

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