

7/17/2002 B. SPEC Iridium-192 Package

On February 7, 2002, Source Production and Equipment Company (SPEC) opened the package they had received containing iridium-192 (Ir-192) which had high radiation levels measured on the package. The package is a Type-B container manufactured in Great Britain. Of the 3 capsules in the package, only one capsule was intact. The top had come entirely unscrewed and was separated from both of the other two capsules. The Ir-192 wafer/pellets were spread literally all over the inside cavity of the DU pot (including some up along the sides of the plug). Some of the wafers had oxidized and were stuck to the inside of the inner container and to each other. The O-rings were both intact. There was no evidence of any damage to the package, and it was verified that the tamper indicating seal was intact. SPEC plans to continue efforts to retrieve the usable Ir-192 wafers. The Department of Transportation (DOT), in coordination with SFPO, has shipped the contaminated packaging to Oak Ridge for evaluation. A French journalist recently reported that the Ir-192 was unshielded when in France and that French workers may have received as much as 1.5 rem whole body exposure. Oak Ridge's analysis of the package was completed in June 2002 with a draft report on the analysis due in July 2002.

10/22/2002 B. SPEC Iridium-192 Package

On February 7, 2002, Source Production and Equipment Company (SPEC) opened the package they had received containing iridium-192 (Ir-192) which had high radiation levels measured on the package. The package is a Type-B container manufactured in Great Britain. Of the 3 capsules in the package, only one capsule was intact. The top had come unscrewed and was separated from both of the other two capsules. The Ir-192 wafer/pellets were spread literally all over the inside cavity of the DU shielding pot (including some up along the sides of the closure plug). There was no evidence of any damage to the package, and it was verified that the tamper indicating seal was intact. SPEC retrieved the usable Ir-192 wafers. The Department of Transportation (DOT), in coordination with SFPO, has shipped the contaminated packaging to Oak Ridge for evaluation. Oak Ridge's analysis of the package was completed the first week of September 2002. The results showed that there is sufficient clearance in the package for the capsule lids to come off. Also, several of the package dimensions were outside allowable tolerances, but not to a degree to be an operational or safety concern. DOT has a copy of Oak Ridge's analysis report for use as it deems necessary.

Internal Summary of SPEC iridium-192 package analysis from Mary Jane Ross-Lee (SFPO) to Steven Baggett (SFPO)

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