

# DAIMLERCHRYSLER

September 9, 2005

DaimlerChrysler Corporation  
Occupational Safety  
Health Services and Industrial Hygiene

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region III  
Attn: John Madera, Chief  
Materials Inspection Branch  
2443 Warrenville Road, Suite 210  
Lisle, IL 60532-4352

Dear Mr. Madera:

This letter is provided to meet the regulations regarding a 30 day written follow up report for damage to source shielding. Originally, during electrical repairs around the gauge, prior to realizing that internal shielding was damaged, five employees were thought to be exposed to elevated levels of radiation. Initial estimates by a representative of the gauge manufacturer, based on the employee locations and exposure times, put these levels above the legal limit for members of the public. However, the NRC Inspectors clarified the distances and times during their inspection and have reported that they felt no one exceeded the Member of the Public dose limits, and we agree with those assessments.

As to the issue of the use of the gauge after it was damaged, it was not realized that the shielding was damaged until the manufacturer came on site, at our request. It was then noted that part of the lead shield had melted. *The partial melting of the lead shielding* was due to a malfunction in our recuperator which has not happened before, nor do we expect to happen again. However, if this situation should arise again, DaimlerChrysler has taken the following actions in order to limit employee exposures and avoid the above situation.

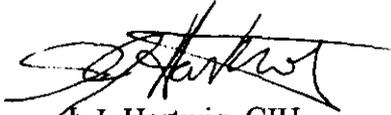
1. The new gauge has been enclosed with sheet steel and Kao-wool insulation to help shield the gauge from high temperature.
2. Individuals monitoring the results of the gauge have been instructed on how to perform and evaluate readings, and have been told of the actions that must be taken in the event of an elevated reading. This will avoid employee exposures and will help ensure ALARA levels.
3. A survey procedure has been established at specified intervals to verify that shielding in the gauge has not been damaged. The plant RSO, or another trained representative shall perform this a survey as soon as possible in order to determine if the shielding is damaged, and in order to set up a 2 mR/hr restricted access zone if needed, including restricting access and discontinuing the use of the gauge.

4. The RSO shall notify the manufacturer and the NRC, if applicable, within the appropriate legal time frames.
5. Employees who work in that area will be instructed to stay out of the exclusion zone and to not use the gauge until instructed to do so by the RSO.

These steps will avoid the potential ensure the continued safe operation this situation is very unlikely to occur again, however, we want to be prepared in case that it does, and the above items should help us to accomplish that goal.

If you have any questions regarding this response to the violation and your visit, please feel free to contact me at any time. Thank you for your prompt assistance during our emergency.

Sincerely,



F. J. Hartwig, CIH  
Industrial Hygiene Supervisor  
RSO

Extremely Urgent

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