

September 30, 2005

Mr. R. D. "Donny" Dicharry
President
Source Production and Equipment Co., Inc.
113 Teal Street
St. Rose, Louisiana 70087

Dear Mr. Dicharry:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of August 26, 2005, which you sent to Chairman Nils J. Diaz regarding access to the Nuclear Material Events Database (NMED).

You requested access to the NMED to support the activities of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) subcommittee revising ANSI Standard N43.9, "Specifications for Design and Testing of Apparatus for Gamma Radiography." You noted that you understand it is NRC's policy to restrict access to U.S. regulators (including State regulators) and Federal entities, or, in some cases, their direct contractors. I would like to note that, less than a year ago, we reviewed the NRC's policy of controlled access to NMED. Upon receiving your original e-mail request in March 2005, and again, after receiving your August 2005 letter, we conducted further reviews of this policy. For a variety of reasons, we have determined that it is in the best interests of public health and safety to continue the controlled access policy for the NMED online system.

As you are aware, Mr. Ujagar Bhachu, of the NRC, is also a member of the ANSI subcommittee. Mr. Bhachu would be able to assist the subcommittee in obtaining information related to events associated with radiography equipment. Please continue to work with the appointed NRC representative to the subcommittee regarding information needed to support the ANSI Standard revision process.

We appreciate your continued interest in, and support of, the NMED.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Annette L. Vietti-Cook
Secretary of the Commission