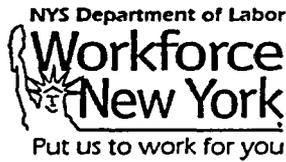


George E. Pataki, Governor



Linda Angello, Commissioner

November 9, 2005

Janet Schlueter, Director
Office of State and Tribal Programs
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Re: Recent Nuclear Materials Events

Dear Ms. Schlueter:

Attached are summaries of three recent events at panoramic irradiator facilities in New York State. Each event involved the failure of a source rack to return to its shielded position. No over-exposures to personnel occurred.

Please contact me with any questions you may have at (518) 457-1202.

Sincerely,

Clayton J. Bradt, CHP
Principal Radiophysicist

cc: Anthony Germano

05 NOV 17 PM 4:13

STP

Phone: (518) 457-1202 Fax: (518) 485-7406
W. Averell Harriman State Office Campus, Bldg. 12, Room 169, Albany, NY 12240

www.labor.state.ny.us

SISP Review Complete

*STP-004 Template
RIPs: SPO-2*

ID	year	Number	Date Received	Date of Incident	Close-out
576	5	10	6/4/2005	6/4/2005	CLOSED

Name
[REDACTED]

Street No
[REDACTED]

City State Zip
Chester NY [REDACTED]

Contact Phone License No
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Summary

REVISS Irradiator source stuck in the exposed position for a period of 40 minutes around 7:55am on June 4, 2005. Total source loading at the time was 3.19 Megacuries of Co-60. There were no doses associated with this incident. REVISS was notified and consulted. After inspection the irradiator was placed back into operation.

Follow - u

Event occurred again on August 15, 2005. See incident ID 584, year 5, number 18.

ID	year	Number	Date Recieved	Date of Inciden	Close-out
584	5	18	8/16/2005	8/15/2005	CLOSED

Name

Street No

City

State

Zip

Chester

NY

Contact

Phone

License No

Summar

REVISS Irradiator source rack became stuck in the exposed position for a period of 56 minutes around 7:30pm on August 15, 2005. Total source loading at the time was 3.9 Megacuries of Co-60. There were no doses associated with this incident. REVISS serviceman arrived on scene August 16th to determine root cause.

Follow - u

It was observed that the rack was getting hung-up on a piece of sheet metal that became bent inside a seam of the protective shroud. The cause of this was believed to be inadequate tension on the aluminum shroud. The metal obstruction was removed and the tension on the shroud was readjusted. This however did not alleviate the problem. Further investigation revealed that a build up of dirt and metal shavings in the guide channel for the hoist mechanism was restricting movement of the hoist. The guide channel was cleaned and the hoist cylinder was repacked with oil to reduce friction. Subsequently the source rack appeared to operate properly. The irradiator was returned to service. See license file for written report from licensee.

ID	year	Number	Date Recieved	Date of Inciden	Close-out
589	5	23	8/31/2005	8/30/2005	CLOSED

Name

Street No

City

State

Zip

Hauppauge

NY

Contact

Phone

License No

Summar

25,400 Curie Cobalt 60 dry-storage irradiator source stuck in the up position. Source became stuck at 4:30 pm on 8/30. Nordion has been contacted and will arrive around 5:00pm on 8/31. No doses to individuals resulted from this event.

Follow - u

Nordion technicians and [redacted] personnel determined via remote controlled camera that a stack of product canisters had toppled over impacting and denting the aluminum guide tube and preventing the source from returning to the shielded position. Holes were cut in the vault roof to allow camera and remote tools to be lowered into the vault. Damaged portion of guide tube was ground away, allowing the source to travel freely. Source was finally returned to shielded position on 9/8. The source was then shipped to MDS Nordion in Canada for evaluation on September 9th. After cleaning and evaluation source was returned to [redacted] on 9/30/05. Root cause was determined to be improper loading of product cannisters onto rotators by product handlers and failure of irradiator operators to verify proper loading prior to irradiation. A protective shroud was installed to protect guide tube from impact with canisters. Damaged or worn product canisters were repaired or removed from service. New canisters will have redesigned fasteners to facilitate proper stacking. Product handlers and irradiator operators retrained to ensure product canisters are properly loaded onto rotators.



New York State Department of Labor

W. Averell Harriman
State Office Building Campus
Albany, New York 12240-0001

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Janet Schlueter, Director
Office of State and Tribal Programs
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

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