

From: "Schumacher, Jon" <SchumaJM@nv.doe.gov>
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To whom it may concern:

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I spent a few years as a contractor for a government agency involved with maintenance and transportation of radioactive sources. It seemed that the vast majority of source control problems involved non-governmental organizations that use the material for well logging and medical projects.

The well logging source material was of particular concern due to its potentially lethal exposure levels when unshielded. Several instances of lost sources have been noted over the years usually due to indifferent handling and physically insecure transportation (i.e. falling out of vehicles, source container failure, disgruntled employees, etc.). Location of lost material is possible, but costly in equipment and manpower. If the material is still shielded in its container or hidden in a shielded location such as a basement or pool, remote locating methods probably will be of little value.

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My own feeling concerning the potential for deployment of a so-called "dirty bomb" or other dispersal medium is that the result is only a nuisance requiring some clean-up afterward with little potential for the infliction of injury other than from the blast. Levels of radiation from the dispersed material most likely would be minimal and the prime factor would be the terror instilled in a public uneducated in the realities of ionizing radiation.

I think better oversight of privately controlled sources by a central agency would help control the situation so that the whereabouts of potentially dangerous materials would be better known. There are some other reasons why stricter controls are necessary, but they are beyond the scope of these comments.

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Pahrump, NV

SISP Review Complete

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