



UNIVERSITY OF  
NOTRE DAME

RISK MANAGEMENT AND SAFETY

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46556-5612 USA

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June 27, 2006

John Madera, Branch Chief  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region III  
2443 Warrenville Road  
Lisle, IL 60532-4352

Dear Mr. Madera:

The University of Notre Dame is reporting the unauthorized transfer of a 15 millicurie Nickel-63 source from one of its laboratories. This transfer occurred on July 29, 2005, when a gas chromatograph containing the Ni-63 sealed source was traded-in for a new unit.

The transfer of material was not discovered until approximately one week later, when the University's Radiation Safety Specialist attempted to perform the semi-annual leak test and was told that the GC unit in which the source was contained had been removed from the lab. We were able to learn that the source had been taken by:

Elf Analytical Services, Inc.  
2 Vermont Drive  
Hazlet, NJ 07730  
Telephone 732-264-4851 or 732-922-8400

We immediately contacted Elf, and eventually spoke to its President, Michael Elefante. He confirmed that they had the unit and the Ni-63 source. We asked for paperwork which would confirm that they had the source. Several more requests were made for such paperwork over the next several months, but no paperwork was forthcoming.

On June 9, 2006, Mr. Elefante informed us that the unit had been installed at Alpha Environmental in Jersey City, N.J. We were able to confirm this by speaking to Antonia Gilligan, President and Radiation Safety Officer, on June 12, 2006. She stated that she was in the process of obtaining the necessary licenses and/or permits for the Ni-63 source. She has since failed to return our phone calls. We are continuing our efforts to obtain the appropriate documentation from Alpha Environmental.

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The information regarding this removal as stated above was reported to the unit's manufacturer, Agilent Technologies, in a series of telephone calls starting on June 12, 2006. David Bennett, RSO at Agilent, spoke with us on June 19, outlining what we needed to do. A telephone call was placed to the Region III Headquarters by Notre Dame immediately following the conversation with Mr. Bennett and the matter was discussed with Ken Lambert who advised us to notify you.

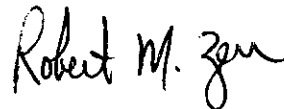
All units on our campus which house a generally licensed source are affixed with a tag stating:

**CONTAINS RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL  
CONTACT RISK MANAGEMENT AND SAFETY BEFORE  
DISPOSAL OR SHIPMENT  
631-5037**

This directive was ignored at the time that this unit was removed. All investigators currently using such units have again been advised in writing to notify Risk Management and Safety prior to any change in location.

Please contact Robert Zerr, Radiation Safety Officer or Andrew Welding, Radiation Safety Specialist, at 574-631-5037 if further information is required.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Zerr  
Director, Risk Management and Safety

RMZ/len



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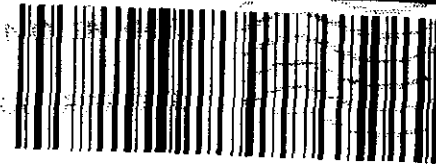
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