

August 3, 2006

NMED No. 060436

Chris McGowan, Ph.D., Dean  
College of Science and Mathematics  
Southeast Missouri State University  
One University Plaza  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

SUBJECT: NRC SPECIAL INSPECTION REPORT 030-33508/06-002 (DNMS) -  
SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

Dear Dr. McGowan:

This refers to the special inspection conducted on July 11, 2006, at Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The purpose of the inspection was to review the circumstances of a July 6, 2006, notification to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regarding the discovery of americium-241 contamination in Room 215 of Magill Hall. At the conclusion of the on-site inspection, the NRC inspectors discussed the preliminary findings with you, and Dr. Walt Lilly. On July 28, 2006, the inspectors conducted a final telephone exit interview with Dr. Lilly.

During this inspection, the NRC identified a violation for failure to conduct a reasonable and necessary survey of a shelving unit prior to its removal from Magill Hall to an unrestricted area. The results of subsequent surveys identified low levels of contamination on the bottom of the item. However, the NRC is treating this violation as a Non-Cited Violation (NCV), consistent with Section VI.A of the Enforcement Policy. The decision to not cite this violation is based on the fact that the University self-identified the violation, the violation was not repetitive or willful in nature, and the University implemented effective corrective actions as a result of the incident. Specifically, University workers were immediately monitored for contamination and provided refresher instruction regarding radiological survey requirements. Your staff developed a new draft survey procedure for use in the survey and release of materials from Magill Hall, which is currently being coordinated with the NRC Region III Licensing Branch.

If you contest the violation or significance of the NCV, you should provide a response within 30 days of the date of this inspection report, with the basis for your denial, to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington DC 20555-0001, with a copies to the Regional Administrator, Region III, and the Director, Office of Enforcement, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). The NRC's document system is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this inspection.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Jamnes L. Cameron, Chief  
Decommissioning Branch

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