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BURLE INDUSTRIES, INC. | 1000 New Holland Ave. | Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17601-5688 USA Tel 1-717 295-6846 | Fax 1-717-290-1274

Scott Moulzolf Senior Member Technical Staff R.S.O.

September 22, 2006

RECEIVED REGION 1

2006 SEP 25 PM 2: 11

Regional Administrator U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region 1 475 Allendale Road King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415

RE: Written report of loss of licensed material (NRC license 37-30196-01) per 10 CFR 20.2201

Dear Regional Administrator,

This letter is to inform you of the loss of one tritium source licensed under NRC license 37-30196-01. Scott Moulzolf discovered the loss on September 6, 2006. He reported the loss by telephone (301-816-5100) to Bill Gott, Operations Officer, NRC Operations Center on September 15, 2006. The event was assigned #42843.

20.2201 (b) (i) Description of lost licensed material: One Gaseous Tritium Light Source (GTLS), approximately 1.4mm dia x 6mm glass tubing sealed at both ends containing 27-47 milliCuries of tritium gas.

20.2201 (b) (ii) Description of circumstances under which loss occurred: The majority of the Gaseous Tritium Light Sources (GTLS) used at Burle Industries were mounted inside of Lucite blocks. On September 6, 2006, Scott Moulzolf was preparing 191 of these sources for return to the original vendor. He noticed that one of the Lucite blocks did not contain a GTLS. The particular Lucite block has dimensions of approximately 4" x 3/4" x 3/8" and a drilled hole with a set screw to contain a source. The known history of the block is that it had been in a locked storage cabinet since the retirement of the previous R.S.O. in June, 2005 and was inventoried as a source at that time and subsequently.

20.2201 (b) (iii) Probable disposition of licensed material: At this point, the source is presumed permanently lost. As the block had not been removed from a locked storage cabinet subsequent to June 2005, the source was likely lost prior to that date.

20.2201 (b) (iv) Exposures of individuals to radiation: No known exposures occurred.

20.2201 (b) (v) Actions that have been taken to recover material: A search of the storage cabinet and surrounding area was conducted by Scott Moulzolf, but the source was not found.

20.2201 (b) (iv) Measures that have been adopted to ensure against recurrence of loss of licensed material: Burle Industries, Inc, Lancaster, PA has returned its remaining inventory of 190 Gaseous Tritium Light Sources to SRB Technologies, Winston-Salem, NC.

Sincerely

Scott Moulzolf

Cc: P. Hink, K. Jenne

Other Nuclear Material	Event Number: 42843		
Rep Org: BURLE INDUSTRIES Licensee: BURLE INDUSTRIES Region: 1 City: LANCASTER State: PA County: License #: 37-30196-01 Agreement: N Docket: NRC Notified By: SCOTT MOULZOLF HQ OPS Officer: BILL GOTT	Notification Date: 09/15/2006 Notification Time: 12:34 [ET] Event Date: 09/05/2006 Event Time: 12:00 [EDT] Last Update Date: 09/15/2006		
Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY 10 CFR Section: 20.2201(a)(1)(ii) - LOST/STOLEN LNM>10X	Person (Organization): EUGENE COBEY (R1) SANDRA WASTLER (NMSS)		

This material event contains a "Less than Cat 3" level of radioactive material.

## **Event Text**

## MISSING TRITIUM SOURCE

One tritium source (27 - 47 milliCuries) was determined to be missing, during an inventory being conducted to return the sources to the manufacturer, one of the tritium sources (27 - 47 milliCuries) was determined to be missing. Because the source is about the size of a grain of rice, the source is normally mounted in a lucite block. A hole is drilled in the lucite block and a set screw holds the source in place. The sources are stored in a locked cabinet. During the inventory on September 6, 2006, the RSO noted that even though the set screw was in place the tritium source was not in the lucite block. The sources have not been used in over a year and the last inventory was conducted on May 1, 2006.

THIS MATERIAL EVENT CONTAINS A "LESS THAN CAT 3" LEVEL OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

Sources that are "Less than IAEA Category 3 sources," are either sources that are very unlikely to cause permanent injury to individuals or contain a very small amount of radioactive material that would not cause any permanent injury. Some of these sources, such as moisture density gauges or thickness gauges that are Category 4, the amount of unshielded radioactive material, if not safely managed or securely protected, could possibly - although it is unlikely - temporarily injure someone who handled it or were otherwise in contact with it, or who were close to it for a period of many weeks.