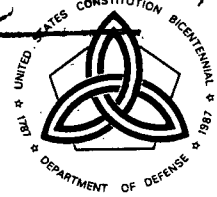




REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

License No. 29-01022-14
Docket No. 030-29741 HPL 257/019
MLER-RI - 91-252
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS COMMAND
AND FORT MONMOUTH
FORT MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY 07703-5000



AMSEL-SF-RER

2 December 1991

MEMORANDUM THRU Commander, U.S. Army Materiel Command, ATTN:
AMCSF-P, 5001 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria,
VA 22333-0001

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

SUBJECT: Loss of Radioactive Test Samples, MX-7338/PDR-27()

1. References:

- a. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Byproduct Material License # 29-01022-14, Docket # 030-29741.
- b. FONECON, 5 August 1991, between Mr. Mark Zarick, our office, and SFC Daggett, 200th TAMMC, SAB.
- c. FONECON, 9 September 1991, between Mr. Gary Ziola, our office, and Mr. Edward Duke, HQ TRADOC, SAB.
- d. FONECON, 9 September 1991, between Mr. Gary Ziola, our office, and Ms. Betsy Ullrich, NRC, SAB.

2. Reference 1a license, issued to this command, authorizes the possession and use of the MX-7338/PDR-27() Test Samples by the Department of the Army. Reference 1d informed the NRC, Region 1, of the loss of subject test samples and that a report combining the two incidents would be forthcoming, following a detailed investigation. In accordance with Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.402, the following information regarding the loss of four (4) each test samples is provided:

- a. Reference 1b and 1c informed this command of the loss of four each MX/7338/PDR-27() Radioactive Test Samples, containing 5 millicuries each of Krypton-85 gas. The MX-7338/PDR-27() is a five inch wand-shaped check source used to check the functional operation of the AN/PDR-27() standard Army beta-gamma radiation detection instrument (Radiac Set). The AN/PDR-27() Radiac Set is comprised of a metal carrying case housing the radiation detection instrument, the MX-7338/PDR-27(), Radioactive Test Sample, spare Geiger-Mueller tubes and other ancillary components.

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AMSEL-SF-RER

SUBJECT: Loss of Radioactive Test Samples, MX-7338/PDR-27()

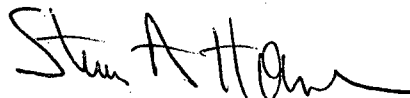
b. Three MX-7338/PDR-27() test samples were inadvertently disposed of in a dumpster at a U.S. Army Class II/IV Warehouse, Grossauheim Kaserne, Hanau MILCOM, Germany. On or about 1300 hours, 18 July 1991, the dumpster was picked up by a city garbage truck. It was taken to the Staedtisches Fuhrpark (Daimler Strasse, 6450 Hanau, FRG) where the items were discovered around 1340 hours that same day. The German fire department was contacted and responded to the scene with survey equipment. No source damage or personnel exposures were reported. A complaint was lodged with the Military Police of Hanau at 1530 hours, 18 July 1991. The three test samples were recovered. We are awaiting written confirmation of the final disposition of the sources.

c. One MX-7338/PDR-27() test sample was discovered missing from the 300th Support Group (Area) of the US Army Reserve, Headquarters at the Gerow US Army Reserve Center, Fort Lee, Virginia. The loss was reported to the Fort Lee Radiation Protection Officer (RPO) on 6 September 1991, after it was discovered missing during an inspection involving 100% change of command inventory. Investigations and a physical search of the unit areas have failed to locate the missing test sample.

d. Actions taken to prevent recurrences: The 300th Support Group has established a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which addresses the life-cycle management of the unit's radiacmeters and radioactive material. The V Corps Safety Office, FRG, will publish a "Lessons Learned" pamphlet describing the incident and the necessary preventive measures to be taken. Training in proper disposal of hazardous materials will also be conducted by the V Corps Safety Office. Our office will submit a worldwide message reminding all users of the MX-7338 of their radiation protection responsibilities regarding the receipt, possession, use, storage and final disposition of this item. In addition, we will follow up this action with an article in PS Magazine to reinforce these requirements.

3. Our POC in this regard is Mr. Gary Ziola, (908) 544-3112.

4. CECOM Bottom Line: THE SOLDIER.


STEVEN A. HORNE
Chief, Safety Office