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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY ELECTRONICS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMAND
2800 POWDER MILL RD., ADELPHI, MD 20783

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF

DRDEL-SS

30 March 1983

Region I, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
ATTN: Dr. Laurence R. Friedman
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Dear Dr. Friedman:

As mentioned in our telephone conversation of 23 March 1983, I am providing this letter to give you the details and an update on the discovery of a small area of low level radioactive contamination in a remote section of Area C, Evans Area, Fort Monmouth, NJ.

Approximately 1030, on 22 March 1983, workers looking for a possible location for future equipment testing, found old high radiation warning signs. They left the area and contacted the ERADCOM Radiation Health Physicist, Mr. Richard Renne. Mr. Renne surveyed the area and found a brick/concrete block (30"x30"x48") emitting radio activity of an unknown source of isotope.

Mr. Renne surveyed and roped off the immediately involved area and posted radiation warning signs. The contaminated area is located in a remote section of Evans Area, about 200 yards from the fence line and 300 feet from any Evans Area operations, in dense undergrowth.

Appropriate contacts were made within the headquarters of ERADCOM, CECOM, and DARCOM. HQ DARCOM, Chief of Radiation Health Physics, Mr. Darwin Taras, tasked ERADCOM with responsibility for reporting and clean up (in conjunction with ARRCOM) on behalf of the US Army. ERADCOM is not considered responsible for the situation, but is handling the matter as a responsive management organization with the capability to take the appropriate actions on behalf of the US Army.

The State of New Jersey, Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Radiation Protection, received samples from the contaminated site on 23 March 1983 from Mr. R. Renne. The results identified the isotope as Cobalt 60. The level of activity in the soil was 21 pica curies/gram of soil at the immediate site and 7 pica curies/gram about 7 inches away.

There is no indication that any persons have been contaminated or received hazardous exposures.

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DRDEL-SS (Dr. L. R. Friedman)

Due to the low surface contamination, there is no reason to suspect significant contamination of any local water. Some concern remains for formations that may tend to concentrate rather than dilute any run off. Further testing will be done in this area.

On 25 March 1983, Mr. R. Renne containerized for storage as radioactive waste, all of the brick and concrete block and as much of the soil as possible.

A complete grid search of the area for any other unknown contamination or sources was conducted on 28 March 1983, using the resources of both the ERADCOM and CECOM safety offices. No additional contamination was found.

Sincerely,

RONALD W. RAESE
Chief, Safety Office
ERADCOM