

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, CA 94035-1000



Reply to Attn of: **N218-1**

November 15, 2006

James L. Montgomery
Nuclear Materials Licensing Branch
Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region IV
811 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400
Arlington, Texas 76011-4005

Re: License Number 04-07845-04

Dear Mr. Montgomery:

This letter confirms information provided by Stan Phillips in a voicemail message to your phone number at approximately 6:00 p.m. on November 13, 2006, stating that three radioactive sources were not located when we did our most recent inventory

The three sources are: one Am-241 check source of 10.4 microcurie activity, one Cd-109 check source of 23.1 microcurie activity, and one Ni-63 source of 13.9 millicurie activity in an electron capture detector foil. The voicemail message incorrectly described the activity of the Ni-63 source as 13.9 microcurie.

The voice mail message also stated that our Radiation Safety Officer (Bill Vermeere) had resigned and that Patrick Muldoon, who will begin full-time employment on Nov 27, 2006, is our candidate to be the Radiation Safety Officer. We will submit a written request to amend our license designation of Radiation Safety Officer.

The missing Cd-109 source was subsequently located on November 14, 2006 in a locked cabinet controlled by the Radiation Safety Office.

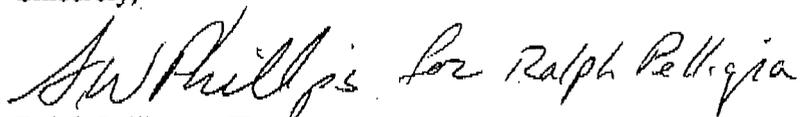
Stan Phillips also made a telephone notification to the NRC Headquarters Operations Center at 1915 EST on November 14, 2006, stating 1) that three radioactive sources were not located in our most recent inventory and were presumed on November 13, 2006 to be lost, 2) that one of the sources was subsequently found on November 14, 2006 in a locked cabinet controlled by the Radiation Safety Office, and 3) that there was no reason to believe the missing sources were removed from our premises.

Efforts are in progress to locate the other two sources. These efforts include surveying the last known locations with a sodium iodide detector, and reconstructing the chain of custody since acquisition of each of the sources through review of purchasing, receipt and disposal records and interviewing all individuals who had authorized access to the sources.

The ARC Ionizing Radiation Safety Committee held an unscheduled meeting to review the incident, define actions we will take to attempt to recover the lost sources, determine the cause of the incident, and commence a review of relevant radiation protection procedures to detect procedural weaknesses. The Committee has already identified a tentative list of procedural changes, to be finalized after consideration of any new information regarding the cause of the incident.

If you have any questions concerning this request, please contact me at (650) 604-5163 or Mr. Stanleigh Phillips at (650) 604-3530.

Sincerely,


Ralph Pelligra, MD

cc:

S. Olliges, Q; N218-1

S. Phillips, QH; N218-1