

MAY 19 1971

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Gen W. Roy, Chief, Materials and Fuel Facilities
Branch, Division of Compliance, HQ

COMPLIANCE INQUIRY MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
WASHINGTON, D.C.
LICENSE NO. 08-01738-02
EXPOSURE REPORTED AND FOUND INVALID

On May 7, 1971, Captain James Morrison, Chief, Nuclear Laboratory and Technical Services, Health Physics Office, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, informed Charles E. Coner, Radiation Specialist, by telephone, that a film badge issued to Specialist-5 [redacted] for the period December 6, 1970 to January 7, 1971, had been reported on May 6, 1971, as having been exposed to 7.4 rem of gamma radiation (>600 KEV).

Morrison stated that [redacted] could not have received the indicated exposure during the December 6, 1970 through January 7, 1971 interval because [redacted] had been on leave for the entire period. He stated that when the exposed badge should have been collected for turn-in to Lexington Signal Depot, on January 6, 1971, it could not be found. When [redacted] returned from leave, on January 11, 1971, [redacted] was asked by the health physics technician to turn-in [redacted] December film badge. [redacted] informed Morrison that [redacted] searched the Radioisotope Clinic, where [redacted] was assigned as a technician, but was unable to find the badge. Morrison stated that the health physics technician also searched for the badge and asked the other technicians if they had any knowledge of its whereabouts, but was unable to find the badge.

Morrison stated that "sometime" in February, 1971 the missing film badge was found in an adjacent laboratory, the Radiopharmacy Laboratory, and turned in to the Health Physics Office. Clipped to the missing badge was a wrist film badge that had also been assigned to [redacted] for the December 6, 1970 through January 7, 1971 period. Both badges were held at the Health Physics Office until April 30, 1971; at which date they were mailed with other "late badges" to Lexington Signal Depot. According to Morrison, the badges were received at Lexington Signal Depot on May 4, 1971.

Information in this record was deleted
in accordance with the Freedom of Information
Act, exemptions 6
FOIA 2006-0238

EX.

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OFFICE ▶	CO				
SURNAME ▶	Coner/nvk	Nelson	Ryan		
DATE ▶	5/17/71		5/18/71		

Coner determined by questioning Morrison that [redacted] wrist badge had shown an exposure of 1.9 rem for the period December 6, 1970 through January 7, 1971, and that Lexington Signal Depot had reported that they had not been able to determine if the exposures to the badges had been single or multiple exposures or whether the badge holders had been contaminated. Coner suggested that Morrison determine if any individual in the Radioisotope Clinic or the Radiopharmacy Laboratory had failed to turn-in his film badge for the month of December, 1970, since such an individual might be suspected to have used [redacted] badge during that time period.

Coner suggested that Morrison continue his investigation, and if by 4:30 p.m., he and the Radioisotope Committee had concluded that the reported exposure had not been received by any individual, he should inform Coner by telephone and prepare a written report of his investigation for the Walter Reed files. On the other hand, if his investigation showed that there was a reasonable doubt concerning the exposure, he should confirm his telephone report with a teletype message, continue his investigation and prepare a 30-day report.

At 4:45 p.m. on May 7, 1971, Lt. Col. Randy Miller, Health Physics Officer for the subject licensee, informed Coner, by telephone, that continued investigation had convinced the Radioisotope Committee that no individual had worn [redacted] film badge and that the exposure was therefore not reportable. He stated that the Committee had concluded that;

1. [redacted] could not have worn the badge during the reported interval since [redacted] was on leave.
2. Since the film badges are color-coded by months, [redacted] use of the December badge during January would have been noticed by [redacted] fellow workers.
3. Exposures to all other individuals working in the vicinity of the Radioisotope Clinic were accounted for by film badges.
4. There were no unusual exposures shown by the film badge records for December, January or February.
5. The film badges (whole body and wrist) had been lost for ten weeks in areas (Radioisotope Clinic and/or Radiopharmacy Laboratory) where the probability of cumulative exposures of this magnitude was reasonable.

Miller stated that the personnel monitoring program would be modified in two ways as a result of this excessive badge exposure. He stated that film badge racks will be provided for the storage of all film badges that are not in use and personnel will be directed to use the racks. He also stated that the practice of holding "late turn-in" film badges for transmittal to Lexington Signal Depot every quarter will be changed so that the late badges are sent in with the next shipment to Lexington Signal Depot.

During the next inspection of this licensed program, December, 1971, the inspector will review the licensee's procedures for the administration of the film badge program.

No further review of this occurrence will be made. Closed.

Paul R. Nelson
Senior Radiation Specialist

CO:I:CEC

Enclosure:
Record Card