

# GENERAL ELECTRIC

SPACE DIVISION

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY . . . . . VALLEY FORGE SPACE CENTER  
(MAIL: P. O. BOX 8555, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19101), Phone (215) 962-2000

May 24, 1974

*File*

U.S. Atomic Energy Commission  
Directorate of Regulatory Operations  
Region I  
Radiological and Environmental Protection Branch  
631 Park Avenue  
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Attention Paul R. Nelson, Chief

Gentlemen:

Subject: License #37-02006-05

The items below are in response to your letter and notice of violations dated May 7, 1974.

- A. The laboratory areas in which the polonium -210 sources were handled were thoroughly resurveyed. One piece of highly contaminated epoxy was found in debris at the edge of the hood where the sources were removed from their holders. The hood was completely decontaminated. The only other location where contamination was found was a low-level spot on the desk blotter belonging to the experimenter. The blotter was disposed of with the radioactive waste. All other areas in the laboratory were found to be free of alpha-emitter contamination. The survey meter used was a portable gas-proportional meter with a minimum sensitivity of about 20 picocuries per 60 square centimeters.
- B. Bioassay samples were taken from the experimenter and sent to a commercial bioassay facility in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The urine sample indicated a level of less than 2 picocuries per liter. The fecal sample indicated less than 0.2 picocuries per gram. These values are the detection limit for the facility.
- C. Alleged violation #1, "Surveys."
  - 1. Corrective action taken:

As noted above, comprehensive surveys were made of the potentially

*E-15*

Paul R. Nelson  
Page Two  
May 24, 1974

affected laboratory areas. Decontamination was accomplished where necessary.

2. Action taken to avoid further violations:

The health physicist has been directed to assure that all surveys are more thorough. As the notice of violations noted, surveys were made of the laboratory area prior to the inspection. These initial surveys found limited contamination in the work area, which were decontaminated at that time. These surveys were believed to have fully complied with 10CFR20.12(a) & (b) at the time.

3. Date when full compliance will be achieved:

Full compliance was achieved with the post-inspection surveys.

D. Alleged violation #3, "Approvals."

1. Corrective actions taken:

The two sources which remained in their original containers were removed from the experimenter's control and placed in the radioactive materials storage vault. The experimenter was notified that removal of these sources from their containers would not be considered until their status as sealed or unsealed sources is determined.

The experimenter was directed by the Ionizing Radiation Advisory Group (IRAG) to obtain its approval before attempting further repairs on the sources. The IRAG also directed the experimenter to obtain its approval before performing any x-ray fluorescence tests with the repaired sources. The sources to be repaired remain in the custody of the health physicist.

2. Actions taken to avoid further violations:

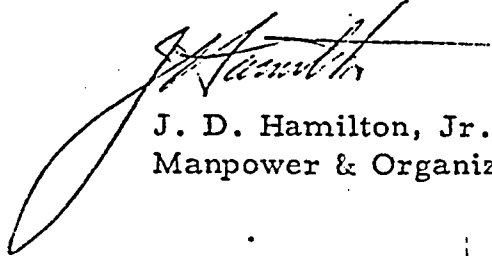
The experimenter was warned that future failures to obtain IRAG approvals could result in the IRAG rescinding all of his outstanding approvals.

Paul R. Nelson  
Page Three  
May 24, 1974

3. Date when full compliance will be achieved:

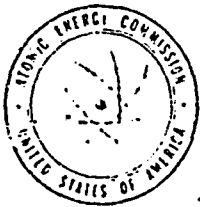
The Space Division is in full compliance as of this date.

Sincerely,



J. D. Hamilton, Jr., Manager - Relations  
Manpower & Organization Planning

/jc



UNITED STATES  
 ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
 DIRECTORATE OF REGULATORY OPERATIONS  
 REGION I  
 631 PARK AVENUE  
 KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406

*Smiley*

*Mushta*

JUN 3 1974

*File  
 GE file no.  
 67-02006-05*

General Electric Company  
 Attention: Mr. J. Hamilton  
 Relations Manager  
 Valley Forge Space Center  
 P.O. Box #8555  
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101

Reference: Your letter dated May 24, 1974  
 In response to our letter dated May 7, 1974

Gentlemen:

Thank you for informing us of the corrective and preventive actions you documented in response to our correspondence. These actions will be examined during our next inspection of your licensed program.

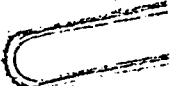
Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

*for* *J P Stohs*

Paul R. Nelson, Chief  
 Radiological & Environmental  
 Protection Branch

bcc (w/encls):  
 RO Chief, FS&EB  
 RO:HQ (4)  
 L:D/D for Fuels and Mat'l  
 PDR  
 NSIC  
 RO Files  
 DR Central Files  
 State of Pa.



OFFICE	GRESS					
SURNAME	McClintock/mjd	Nelson				
DATE	5/31/74	6/3/74				