



October 6, 2009

Mr. Edward Kulzer
U.S. NRC Region III
2443 Warrenville Road, Ste. 210
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4352
(630) 829-9500

Re: Mars Petcare US, Inc. – Missing Radioactive Device

Dear Mr. Kulzer:

This letter follows on the telephone notification I provided to you on September 28, 2009 regarding the disposition of a single generally-licensed RONAN Model RLL-1 Source Holder (Serial No. 203815-A). As discussed, the device had been in use at the Mars Petcare US, Inc. (Mars Petcare or Company) facility located at 707 Rice Road, Butler, Missouri, 64730. This facility was closed in November 2008 and, thereafter, various decommissioning activities were commenced.

As part of the decommissioning activities, in September 2009, Mars Petcare made arrangements with the device manufacturer (RONAN) for the transfer and disposal of the unit. However, Mars Petcare associates were not able to immediately locate the device at the Butler facility. As a result, the Company launched an investigation to determine the status and disposition of the device.

Mars Petcare has conducted an extensive search of the Butler facility for the device. We have also interviewed associates involved in the decommissioning activities at the facility. To date, we have been unable to locate the device or establish its disposition. Based on our investigation, it appears likely that the device was inadvertently shipped with scrap material from the facility to a nearby metal recycling center. On three separate occasions, Mars Petcare associates visited the metal recycling center where they searched for the missing device. We have continued to follow up with the metal recycling center as well as investigate other possible outcomes, but the device has yet to be located.

For your reference, specifications for the missing device are provided below:

Device Specifications:

Material:	Cs-137 with a 30 year half-life
Construction:	Doubly encapsulated in heliarc-welded stainless steel capsule
Total Activity:	0.63 mCi for Source Holder Source Holder comprised of seven (7) 0.09 mCi capsules
Serial No:	203815-A

OCT - 8 2009

At the time of the facility closure, the device was located in the coating area of the plant and it was in good condition. Facility records from both July 2008 and September 2008 verify that the device was present at the Mars Petcare Butler facility.

In order to prevent the recurrence of this type of incident, Mars Petcare is undertaking the following measures (to be completed by the end of November 2009):

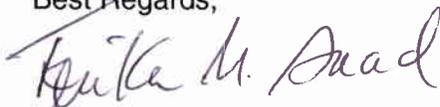
- Develop and implement an updated Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for inventory review, labeling, use, handling, transfer, and disposal of devices containing radioactive material;
- Re-train affected Mars Petcare associates (i.e., Safety, Environmental, & Security Associates, Operators, and Maintenance Personnel) on radioactive device management; and
- Ensure periodic inventory checks of generally-licensed radioactive devices that will be reported back to Mars Petcare corporate headquarters and verified with the source manufacturer (i.e., RONAN).

Mars Petcare is committed to fully satisfying our compliance obligations. For your information, our corporate mailing address is provided below.

Mars Petcare US, Inc.
P.O. Box 683006
Franklin, TN 37068
(615) 807-4626 (main office)

If you have any immediate questions or concerns regarding this matter, please feel free to contact Mr. Michael Moore or myself at (615) 807-4377.

Best Regards,



Erika Saad
Environmental Manager

cc: Michael Moore, SES Group Manager
Rob Adams, Regional SES Manager