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SGML:RLJ
70-687

NOV 28 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. Partlow, Chief
Material Control and Accountability
Licensing Branch

FROM: R. Jackson
Material Control and Accountability
Licensing Branch

THRU: R. Brightsen
Material Control and Accountability
Licensing Branch

SUBJECT: I&E INSPECTION REPORT 70-687/79-01

This memorandum is intended to serve as a partial response to the September 19, 1979, report conclusions reached by representatives of the Region I office in regards to an inspection conducted at the Union Carbide Corporation, Tuxedo, N.Y. on April 24 thru 27, 1979.

- (1) Specific reference is made to "Appendix A - Notice of Violation" regarding the licensees' noncompliance with stated procedures as found in Section 1.3 (Training Programs) of their FNMC Plan.
- (2) Further reference is made to the comments under item no. 5 of the "Details" concerning Measurement and Statistical Controls as they apply to the receipt of SSNM.

Reference 1 -

I do not consider the training program issue as "unresolved" in regards to the legitimacy of the given infraction. The licensees' FNMC Plan, Section 1.3, plainly states that sixteen hours of documented instruction will be given to personnel responsible for the management and handling/processing of SSNM. I concur that the licensees' approach, as described in the subject I&E report, does not guarantee that the stated number of instruction hours are actually given - a burden of proof that rests with the licensee.

There is a matter of inconsistency in regards to past MCL Branch position, or lack thereof, and on the part of individual MCL Branch reviewers that should be dealt with. Five SSNM licensees, Atomics International, B&W Navy, B&W Apollo, Leechburg, GE-Vallecitos, and General Atomics do not state a

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specific number of instruction/training hours to be given. Five SSNM licensees, Union Carbide, Tuxedo; United Nuclear Corp., Montville/Wood River Junction; Exxon; and Texas Instrument do specify that a minimum of 16 hours of instruction/training will be given while one licensee, B&W Research, state that a maximum of 16 hours of instruction/training will be given.

In fairness to Union Carbide, Tuxedo, and all those licensees who have committed, per their FNMC Plan, to a stated number of instruction/training hours, notification should be given in writing that they have the option of maintaining their current Section 1.3 or deleting the specified number of hours. The MCL Branch concern should be that the licensees Section 1.3 incorporate the philosophy that a documented program of instruction/training will be given to all those supervisory and operational personnel involved with the management, handling and/or processing of SSNM on a level commensurate with the level of responsibility, degree of involvement and complexity of the operation. A committed to arbitrary number of hours, while perhaps appealing in a regulatory frame, does not in itself guarantee an adequate licensee material control and accountability training program. It may lead to a comforting feeling that is not justified. Sixteen hours in some cases may be not enough, in other cases too much. Your response to this recommendation/opinion is requested.

Reference 2 -

The reference made that if Union Carbide, Tuxedo, had larger receipts than they do have presently, significant Shipper/Receiver differences could result because their method of uranium analysis is not as accurate as the present "state-of-the-art" is a moot point. It is my understanding that Union Carbide, Tuxedo, is operating at maximum capacity. It is not plausible that a larger S/R difference can result at the present, nor future anticipated, level of operations. Therefore, the present "state-of-the-art" for the uranium analysis determination, while perhaps ideally desirable, is not required.

R. Jackson
Material Control and Accountability
Licensing Branch

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TRAINING PROGRAMS

The minimum annual training program will be as follows:

- (a) Sixteen hours of instruction on the requirements of 10 CFR 70 and SNM License requirements will be given all management and supervisory personnel who have direct responsibility for control and accounting of SNM.
- (b) Sixteen hours of instruction on 10 CFR 70, specific license requirements and operational procedures will be given to all personnel working directly with SNM.
- (c) Effectiveness of training can be evaluated thru audits of operations by UCC and NRC personnel by noting adherence to established procedures and license requirements. Individuals will be retrained as indicated by such audits.
- (d) Records of personnel training will be maintained by the Health Physics Manager.
- (e) Each new employee assigned to work with SNM shall be given 2 weeks on-the-job training under the direction of a Senior Technician or a supervisor.

Union Carbide - Inerts
typical sample when number of
hours specified

1.3 Training Program

Atomics International policy requires that individuals performing tasks involving control or handling of special nuclear material have skill levels consistent with the task requirements. To assure continued maintenance of competency commensurate with the respective positions, documented programs of instructions and training have been established. The Health, Safety and Radiation Services Department, in cooperation with the Training Department and operating departments, establishes training programs covering the aspects of special nuclear material control. Assigned individuals are instructed, via the Training Department, in sufficient depth to assure functional competency in their assignments.

The program provides for an annual course of instruction which includes the requirements of regulations, license conditions, and SNM control procedures. The course can be given in incremental portions if desired. Records of attendance are kept and are available for inspection for a period of two years.

Measurement procedures are prepared and qualified for each type measurement used. Performance qualification is required of individuals responsible for conducting SNM measurements. Procedure and performance qualification criteria are "consistent measurement results within the measurement limit of error for three consecutive measurements of unlike known standards."

In addition to the work station procedure training and SNM control and accounting training, program related courses as shown in Figure 1.3a and 1.3b are also given.

*typical example when number of
hours not specified.*