



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
631 PARK AVENUE
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406

Docket No. 70-687

AUG 05 1977

Union Carbide Corporation
ATTN: Mr. James J. McGovern
Production Manager, Radiochemicals
P. O. Box 324
Tuxedo, New York 10987

Gentlemen:

Subject: Inspection 70-687/77-03

This refers to the inspection conducted by Mr. E. Woltner of this office on July 13, 1977, of activities authorized by NRC License No. SNM-639, and to the discussions of our findings held by Mr. Woltner with Mr. C. Konnerth of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection.

Areas examined during this inspection are described in the Office of Inspection and Enforcement Inspection Report which is enclosed with this letter. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observations by the inspector.

Within the scope of this inspection, no items of noncompliance were observed.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice", Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and the enclosed inspection report will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room. If this report contains any information that you (or your contractor) believe to be proprietary, it is necessary that you make a written application within 20 days to this office to withhold such information from public disclosure. Any such application must be accompanied by an affidavit executed by the owner of the information, which identifies the document or part sought to be withheld, and which contains a statement of reasons which addresses with specificity the items which will be considered by the Commission as listed in subparagraph (b) (4) of Section 2.790. The information sought to be withheld shall be incorporated as far as possible into a separate part of the affidavit. If we do not hear from you in this regard within the specified period, the report will be placed in the Public Document Room.

AUG 05 1977

No reply to this letter is required; however, should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,



Walter G. Martin, Chief
Safeguards Branch

Enclosure: Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Inspection Report Number 70-687/77-03

cc w/encl:

D. B. Holzgraf, Nucleonics Manager

W. Fecych, Reactor Supervisor

C. Konnerth, Health Physicist

Dr. D. C. Freeman, Jr., General Manager for Clinical Diagnostics

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

Region I

Report No. 77-03

Docket No. 70-687

License No. SNM-639 Priority 1

Safeguards Group 2
Category --

Licensee: Union Carbide Corporation

P. O. Box 324

Tuxedo, New York 10987

Facility Name: Sterling Forest Research Center

Inspection at: Sterling Forest Research Center

Inspection conducted: July 13, 1977

Inspectors: E. Woltner
E. Woltner, Auditor

8/4/77
date signed

date signed

date signed

Approved by: R. R. Keimig
R. R. Keimig, Acting Chief, Nuclear Material
Control Support Section, Safeguards Branch

8/4/77
date signed

Inspection Summary:

Inspection on July 13, 1977 (Report No. 70-687/77-03)

Areas Inspected: Nuclear material control and accounting including organization; operations; management of materials control system; licensee action on previously identified unresolved item. The inspection involved five inspector hours onsite by one NRC inspector.

Results: No items of noncompliance were identified.

DETAILS

1. Persons Contacted

Principal Licensee Employees

Mr. J. McGovern, Manager, Radiochemical Production
*Mr. C. Konnerth, Manager - Health, Safety, and Environmental
Affairs
Mr. L. Thelin, Radiation Health Physicist

*denotes those present at the exit interview.

2. Licensee Action on Previous Inspection Findings

(Closed) Unresolved item (687/77-02): Failure to provide more than one standard for the barrel scanner used to analyze solid scrap destined for burial. The inspector found that the licensee has prepared three standards in the range of the barrels being measured.

3. Organization

The inspector ascertained that the licensee has established, maintained, and is following the fundamental nuclear material control (FNMC) plans and applicable license conditions.

The plans contain organization charts identifying all positions having responsibilities for the control over SNM and the nuclear material management structure describing the relationship of the functions and responsibilities.

It was determined that there is a separation of functions identified in the procedures to provide a system of checks and balances.

No items of noncompliance were identified.

4. Facility Operation

The review of the licensee's process and operation conforms with its approved FNMC plan. The required Material Balance Areas (MBAs) have been established in conformance with the approved FNMC plan. A review of the physical inventory period of March 2, 1977 through April 27, 1977 summary indicated that the responsibility for the custody of SNM in each MBA has been delegated in writing.

No items of noncompliance were identified.

5. Management of Materials Control System

The inspector determined that the management system provides for an annual review of the material control system. A report was issued August 17, 1976 to the Nuclear Safeguards Committee. A review of the report indicated that no major corrective action was required for the overall management system. No items of noncompliance were identified.

6. Exit Interview

The inspector met with the licensee representative (denoted in Paragraph 1) at the conclusion of the inspection on July 13, 1977. The inspector summarized the scope and findings of the inspection. The licensee representative did not have any additional comments.