



CONSOL Energy Inc.
CNX Center
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Canonsburg, PA 15317

Joseph M. Richards
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May 27, 2010

Reference: U.S. NRC Event #45896

ATTN: Document Control Desk, Director
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Sirs:

In accordance with 10 CFR, 30.50(c)(2), follow-up written reporting requirements, this letter is in response to Event #45896, which was reported by me to the U.S. NRC Operations Center by phone, on May 3, 2010. This notification involved the failure of the sealed-source “deploy” and “retract” mechanism on a Gamma-Metrics 2000 Bulk Material Analyzer, to function as designed. The probable cause of this failure was the age of the canister which originally housed the Cf-252 sealed source in question, and which broke allowing the source to fall by design, into the stored and shielded position. The use of this device is authorized by the U.S. NRC license number 47-25325-01 under the licensee Fola Coal Company, LLC. Details of the event and corrective actions taken are as follows.

On Friday, April 30, 2010 at approximately 12:00 noon, while in the process of replacing Cf-252 sealed sources in a Gamma-Metric Model 2000 Bulk Material Analyzer located at the load out facility of the Fola Coal Company in Bickmore, WV, it was discovered that the right side canister holding three of the Cf-252 sources had broken allowing the three sources originally contained within the canister, to fall back as designed, into the stored and shielded position.

Two of these three sources were recovered from the stored position, however one source (i.e., serial # CF-Z1417 at .8 micrograms) remains in the stored position at this time, despite continuing efforts to retrieve it by SABIA Inc. under their U.S. NRC license #11-27727-01. It should be noted that exposure rate measurements have been taken throughout this event indicating that no exposure or safety hazards exist.

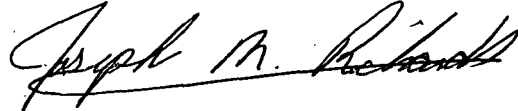
As of today, multiple attempts to retrieve this source have failed. Attempts have included using air pressure, vacuum systems, and multiple cable and line mechanisms designed to fish out the source. A video, fiber optic type camera was tried; however the size of the camera would not allow it to reach the stored area where the source is located. SABIA Inc. has contacted Thermo Gamma-Metrics and they are now looking over what other options are available to remove the source.

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We will continue to keep you updated on this issue as a resolution to this issue becomes available. We appreciate your help and continued cooperation. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Sincerely,

On Behalf of Fola Coal Company, LLC



Copy to:

Rocky Osborne.....Fola Coal Company, LLC
Michael Reichard.....U.S. NRC Region I Office