



Briggs Engineering & Testing

A DIVISION OF PK ASSOCIATES, INC.

November 16, 2010

Licensing Assistants Section
Nuclear Materials Safety Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region 1
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415

Re: **Notification of Incident involving Nuclear Density Gauges,
License # 20-16401-04, Docket 030-33245**

Gentlemen,

This letter is written relative to an observation made of our technician Mr. Thomas Gomes that was performing compaction testing at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard on November 15, 2010. Mr. Scott Higgins, an Assistant Radiation Health office observed Mr. Gomes discussing work with a site contractor.

The contractor had approached Mr. Gomes while at his vehicle and asked him to examine some fill material a short distance from his vehicle. Mr. Higgins observed him walk away from the vehicle that the instrument was in while the driver's side window of the vehicle was rolled down. He left the area far enough that he could no longer see the vehicle since he was on the other side of the building examining a pile of crushed stone. He remained in a position to observe the vehicle to ensure that the instrument security was maintained and when he returned, I asked him for the location of his device security keys. He reached in his pockets and was unable to find them. He stated that he had inadvertently left the both the van keys and the instrument security keys in the vehicle which was unlocked with the window rolled down.

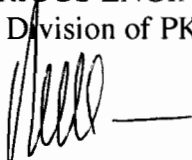
Clearly, Mr. Gomes did not maintain direct control of the nuclear density gauge. Our policy clearly states direct control of the nuclear density must always be maintained even if the individual is within a very shirt distance from the gauge. Immediately upon being notified of this incident, we communicated with Mr. Gomes that his actions were not in conformance with our procedures and the applicable regulations. Mr. Gomes was interviewed on November 16, 2010 regarding the incident and was informed the seriousness of the situation and any future deviations from procedures would result in immediate termination. Corrective action that will be taken is as follows.

www.briggsengineering.com

2. Notified all other designated users of the incident and reiterated the procedures to be followed concerning proper security of nuclear gauges.
3. Sent memo related to gauge security to all designated users, this will be completed by November 18, 2010.
4. Will perform a field audit of all designated users to assure conformance to policy and procedures, this will be completed within 30 days.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 781-871-6040.

Very truly yours,
BRIGGS ENGINEERING AND TESTING
A Division of PK Associates, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Skorohod', followed by a horizontal line.

Paul M. Skorohod
President