



## GE Healthcare

**Richard Hughes**  
Corporate Radiation Safety Officer  
101 Carnegie Center  
Princeton, NJ 08540

O - 609-514-6647  
C - 609-209-6832  
F - 215-827-5702  
rick.hughes@ge.com

21 January 2011

Edward L. Kulzer  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region III  
2443 Warrenville Road, Suite 210  
Lisle, IL 60532-4352

RE: Hazardous Materials Incident Notification Follow-Up

Mr. Edward Kulzer:

Per your request, the GE Healthcare facility located at 12300 Hubbard Road, Livonia, MI 48150, submits the following report of actions and follow-up measures taken pertaining to the incoming package contamination incident reported to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Operations Center (Report # 46378) in accordance with 10 CFR 20.1906(d).

While receiving a hazardous material package containing Limited Quantity Materials (UN2910), the GE Healthcare pharmacy personnel detected removable surface contamination on the outer surface of the package which exceeded the contamination reporting limit of 200 dpm/cm<sup>2</sup>. The package contained returned materials (lead-lined syringe containers) that were being shipped back to the GE Healthcare facility from a customer location in Rochester Hills, Michigan.

The incoming package contamination (583 dpm/cm<sup>2</sup> Tc-99m) was identified during the routine radioactive package receiving process. The suspect package was secured in the facility and the site Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) initiated an investigation into the origin of the package surface contamination. Radioactive contamination surveys were performed on the facility Receiving Area, GE Healthcare personnel, and the GE Healthcare vehicle that transported the package. All radioactive contamination surveys completed were at or below background. The package contents (0.082 uCi) were allowed to decay to background levels and then physically inspected to determine if the cause of the package contamination was a package integrity failure. The packaging was found to be intact without any physical defects present.

The in-house GE Healthcare package contamination incident investigation concerning the origin of the radioactive contamination was deemed inconclusive.

Proceeding the initial GE Healthcare in-house investigation, the "Shipper" (Cardiology & Vascular Associates) was notified of the elevated removable surface contamination which exceeded the non-fixed radioactive contamination limits listed in 10 CFR 71.87(i) and 49 CFR 173.443(a) respectively. The management of Cardiology & Vascular Associates was then informed that GE Healthcare reported the package contamination incident to the National Response Center in accordance with 49 CFR 171.15(b)(2) and the NRC Operations Center pursuant to 10 CFR 20.1906(d).

The "Shipper" was encouraged to provide staff re-training on the return of UN2910 package shipments to their local GE Healthcare facility and to improve internal hazardous material shipping procedures to prevent any future recurrence.

Should you have any additional questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact me at 609-209-6832.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard A. Hughes", written in black ink.

Richard A. Hughes  
Corporate Radiation Safety Officer  
GE Healthcare - Medical Diagnostics