

February 3, 2011

NMED 110010 (Closed)

Ms. Linda Begnoche
U.S. Geological Survey
U.S. Department of the Interior
Great Lakes Science Center
1451 Green Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

SUBJECT: LETTER DATED NOVEMBER 19, 2010, REGARDING A REPORTABLE
QUANTITY OF REMOVABLE CONTAMINATION

Dear Ms. Begnoche:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your letter dated November 19, 2010, to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), regarding your report of a leak test of a nickel-63 source with greater than 0.005 microcuries of removable contamination.

As you discussed with Mr. Aaron McCraw, of my staff, during a January 26, 2011, follow-up telephone call, you discovered the reportable quantity of removable contamination during a routine leak test of a nickel-63 source in a Varian Instruments gas chromatograph. You indicated that the source and device were bagged and isolated at your facility and are inaccessible to personnel. You also indicated your intent to dispose of the source and device, as well as other similar devices that are no longer in use. We have reviewed your actions and have no further questions at this time. Our review of this event is closed.

In accordance with Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

L. Begnoche

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. McCraw. You can reach Mr. McCraw by telephone at 630-829-9650 or by e-mail at Aaron.McCraw@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Tamara E. Bloomer, Chief
Materials Inspection Branch

Docket No. 999-90003
General License 10 CFR 31.5

cc: State of Michigan

L. Begnoche

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. McCraw. You can reach Mr. McCraw by telephone at 630-829-9650 or by e-mail at Aaron.McCraw@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Tamara E. Bloomer, Chief
Materials Inspection Branch

Docket No. 999-90003
General License 10 CFR 31.5

cc: State of Michigan

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