

September 15, 2011

Office of the Secretary

U.S. NRC Role making Petition

Washington, DC 20555-001

Dear Sir/ Madam:

I do have a concern regarding the security of Neutron Sources (Am-241-Be; Pu-239-Be sources). The construction of these sources (at least the ones used in colleges and universities as our for irradiating foils), make them an easy target for theft. The source is located at the end of a rod in the middle of a 55 gallon drum. The source is surrounded inside the drum by a plastic or wax shielding. The samples are lowered in holes next to the source for irradiation.

The drum has a cover that can be easily removed and the source is taken out to be placed in a smaller drum for get away. Last year GTRI came to our facility and placed wires around the drum and was attached to the wall. If someone wants to take the source they do not have to disturb the wire just remove the cover and take the source.

Unless:

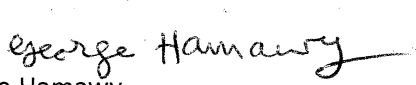
We install radiation alarm connected to the Public Safety Department that can be triggered when the source is removed.

As it stands now there are no requirements for a radiation alarm. My petition is to require the installation of radiation alarms for rooms housing neutron sources. This can be effective in preventing the source removal especially in the case of hostage of in-house person that allows the intruder to the room housing the source.

I will be grateful to you if you look into this matter. Security should be our priority.

Thanks.

Sincerely,


George Hamawy

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