

SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTION

1. LICENSEE/LOCATION INSPECTED:

2. NRC/REGIONAL OFFICE

Environmental Protection Agency
6201 Congdon Boulevard
Duluth, Minnesota 55804

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

REPORT NUMBER(S) 2012-001

3. DOCKET NUMBER(S)

4. LICENSE NUMBER(S)

5. DATE(S) OF INSPECTION

030-05046

22-13390-01

August 15, 2012

LICENSEE:

The inspection was an examination of the activities conducted under your license as they relate to radiation safety and to compliance with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) rules and regulations and the conditions of your license. The inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observations by the inspector. The inspection findings are as follows:

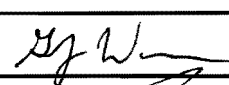
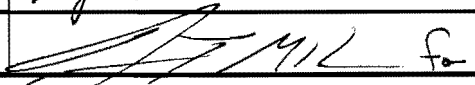
- 1. Based on the inspection findings, no violations were identified.
- 2. Previous violation(s) closed.
- 3. The violation(s), specifically described to you by the inspector as non-cited violations, are not being cited because they were self-identified, non-repetitive, and corrective action was or is being taken, and the remaining criteria in the NRC Enforcement Policy, to exercise discretion, were satisfied.

Non-cited violation(s) were discussed involving the following requirement(s):

- 4. During this inspection, certain of your activities, as described below and/or attached, were in violation of NRC requirements and are being cited in accordance with NRC Enforcement Policy. This form is a NOTICE OF VIOLATION, which may be subject to posting in accordance with 10 CFR 19.11.
(Violations and Corrective Actions)

Statement of Corrective Actions

I hereby state that, within 30 days, the actions described by me to the Inspector will be taken to correct the violations identified. This statement of corrective actions is made in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 2.201 (corrective steps already taken, corrective steps which will be taken, date when full compliance will be achieved). I understand that no further written response to NRC will be required, unless specifically requested.

TITLE	PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
LICENSEE'S REPRESENTATIVE			
NRC INSPECTOR	Geoffrey M. Warren		8/15/12
BRANCH CHIEF	Tamara E. Bloomer		8/29/12

Docket File Information

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3. DOCKET NUMBER(S) 030-05046	4. LICENSE NUMBER(S) 22-13390-01	5. DATE(S) OF INSPECTION August 15, 2012
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6. INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED 87126	7. INSPECTION FOCUS AREAS 03.01 - 03.07
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SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION INFORMATION

1. PROGRAM CODE(S) 03620	2. PRIORITY 5	3. LICENSEE CONTACT Eric S. Mead, CIH, RSO	4. TELEPHONE NUMBER (218) 529-5017
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Main Office Inspection Next Inspection Date: August 2017

Field Office Inspection

Temporary Job Site Inspection

PROGRAM SCOPE

The EPA operated its National Health and Environmental Effect Research Laboratory (NHEERL), employing approximately 140 personnel at its facility in Duluth, Minnesota. Licensed activities included use of tritium, carbon-14, iodine-125 radioimmunoassay kits, and two nickel-63 sources in gas chromatographs in five laboratories at this facility. Seven primary investigators (authorized users) oversaw around three additional personnel in use of these materials in research on aquatic ecosystems. No animal research was performed at this site. While authorized to use additional isotopes and materials, the licensee had not used them since the previous inspection, and intended to reduce the materials authorized during the upcoming license renewal. All materials were received as limited quantities. Licensee personnel did not wear dosimetry; the licensee had performed assessments in the past to determine that expected exposures did not exceed limits for general public. The quarterly radiation safety committee meeting had good attendance and discussed appropriate topics.

Performance Observations

Licensee personnel demonstrated the use and storage of licensed materials, and surveys for contamination and source leakage, and described training, waste handling and storage, and other activities. The inspector no concerns with these activities. Interviews with licensee personnel indicated adequate knowledge of radiation safety concepts and procedures. The inspector performed independent and confirmatory radiation measurements which indicated results consistent with licensee survey records and postings.