



Monday, November 26, 2012

Materials Licensing Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region III
2443 Warrenville Road, Suite 210
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4352
Re: License No. 21-09362-12

Current Event # 48535: Fixed gauge shutter and isolation lock-out mal-function

During a six-month sealed source leak test in the 515 Building process area at approximately 09:30 on Monday, November 26, 2012, the assistant Radiation Safety Officer, Mike Whelton, attempted to performed a routine shutter check on the Ohmart Vega fixed level gauge; (Model SHF1-A45 - serial number 0923GK). The shutter was in the normal open position and failed to rotate to the closed position.

An area survey was performed to determine radiation levels using a Ludlum Model 2241-3 survey meter with a 44-10 NaI Gamma Scintillator probe (survey meter #297970, gamma scintillator #PR321866). All survey equipment was within calibration compliance due November 13, 2013. A maximum reading of 0.2-mR/hr was found on the detector side of the instrument at an approximate range of 2 inches. The survey recorded 2.0-mR/hr at the source side approximately 16 inches. All readings taken 30-cm or greater from any point of surface contact were observed to be at background levels equal to 0-mR/hr.

A 0-mR/hr area around this instrument was barricaded off using yellow and magenta radiation barricade tape with "Warning: Radioactive Materials" printed on it.

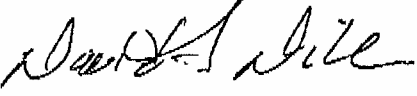
Contact was made with the building operations staff, Midland Site Radiation Officer, and the Midland Plant Site Safety & Loss Prevention Manager regarding this incident.

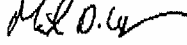
In addition, Steve Sandin at the Washington D.C. branch of the Nuclear Regulatory Agency was notified at approximately 12:50 pm the date of the finding.

Continuing attempts are being made to contact the gauge manufacturer Ohmart-Vega to schedule an immediate repair. Until gauge repair can be made, general public access to this immediate area will continue to be restricted.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on my cell phone at (989) 954-7052 with any additional questions, comments, and/or concerns.

Sincerely,


David Tray Dillon
Midland Plant Radiation Safety Officer


Michael Whelton
Back-up Radiation Safety Officer
Dow Corning Midland Michigan