

DOW CORNING

► Fax

12/20/2012

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Company Name: NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

3 pages total

Comments:

Ryan,

As requested, here is the revised 30-day action letter. Thanks,

Tray Dillon



☐ Urgent

☒ For Review

☐ Please Comment

☐ Please Reply

☐ Please Recycle



Monday, December 03, 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: 30-Day Repair and Completion of Fixed gauge shutter and isolation lock-out mal-function ~ Revision-1

This "Final Repair Notice" of "Event 48535", originally reported Monday, November 26, 2012 describes the *final repair* status of the Ohmart Vega fixed density gauge; (Model SHF1-A45 - serial number 0923GK) located at the 515 Building process area inside Dow Corning Corporation's Midland, Michigan Chemical Plant.

The probable cause of the stuck shutter assembly was potentially related to an "O-ring" internal seal failure allowing moisture to enter the gauge and eventually causing enough corrosion to enable mechanical failure. The sealed source in this gauge is 15-mCi of Cesium-137. There was no recorded exposure incident to individuals at any time during this current event or as a result of the gauge malfunctioning.

ORIGINAL NOVEMBER 26, 2012 INCIDENT REPORT:

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.

REGION III FINAL REPAIR STATUS UPDATE:

Immediately upon finding the 515 Building's gauge malfunction, a direct line of communications was established with Vega America's, Incorporated Field Services Manager resulting in the scheduling of an on-site service technician to repair the malfunctioning gauge.

On Thursday, November 29, 2012, Vega America's, Incorporated dispatched a service repair technician to the Midland, Michigan Chemical Plant for the specific purpose of repairing the 515 Building gauge.

Radiation readings were taken prior to replacing the shutter kit. The highest reading observed was found to be acceptable at approximately 2-mR/hr at 6" from the source holder. The shutter kit was replaced and confirmed to be functioning without further incident.

Thank you very much for your time and attention with this matter and please do not hesitate to contact me on my cell phone at (989) 954-7052 with any additional questions, comments, and/or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Tray Dillon".

David Tray Dillon
Midland Plant Radiation Safety Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Whelton".

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