

SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTION

1 LICENSEE/LOCATION INSPECTED

Verso Paper
W6791 U.S. Highway 2
Quinnesec, MI 49870-0191

REPORT NUMBER(S) 2014001

2 NRC/REGIONAL OFFICE

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

3 DOCKET NUMBER(S)

030-29166

4 LICENSE NUMBER(S)

21-124692-01

5 DATE(S) OF INSPECTION

April 24, 2014

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)

Contrary to 10 CFR 35(c)(2), the licensee did not test a Hewlett-Packard, Model 19312 gas chromatography detector cell containing a nominal 15 millicuries of nickel-63, which is not subject to the exemptions specified in subparagraphs (i) and (ii), for leakage between January 16, 2013 and April 24, 2014, an interval exceeding 6 months as specified in the regulation and a longer interval was not specified on the label.

The licensee implemented corrective actions that included leak testing the detector cell, training the lab supervisor on the correct leak test frequency, and adding a column to the master inventory list for the date of the last leak test.

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	Boyd Morstad	<i>Boyd P. Morstad</i>	5/6/14
NRC INSPECTOR	Ken Lambert	<i>Ken Lambert</i>	5/6/14
BRANCH CHIEF	Aaron T. McCraw	<i>[Signature]</i>	5/6/14

Docket File Information
SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTION

1. LICENSEE/LOCATION INSPECTED: Verso Paper W6791 U.S. Highway 2 Quinnesec, MI 49870-0191 REPORT NUMBER(S) 2014001	2. NRC/REGIONAL OFFICE Region III U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 2443 Warrenville Road, Suite 210 Lisle, IL 60532-4352
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3. DOCKET NUMBER(S) 030-29166	4. LICENSE NUMBER(S) 21-124692-01	5. DATE(S) OF INSPECTION April 24, 2014
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6. INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED 87124	7. INSPECTION FOCUS AREAS 03.01 - 03.07
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SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION INFORMATION

1. PROGRAM CODE(S) 3120	2. PRIORITY 5	3. LICENSEE CONTACT Bod Morstad, RSO	4. TELEPHONE NUMBER (906) 779-3623
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Main Office Inspection Next Inspection Date: April 24, 2019

Field Office Inspection _____

Temporary Job Site Inspection _____

PROGRAM SCOPE

This was a Routine Inspection of a paper mill that possessed 12 specifically licensed fixed gauges containing cesium-137. The licensee also possessed the following generally licensed devices: five krypton-85 fixed gauges; three cesium-137 fixed gauges; one strontium-90 fixed gauge; and one nickel-63 gas chromatography detector cell. The licensee performs leak tests, inventories, shutter tests, and lock out/tag out by authorized users and as authorized by the license for its specifically licensed gauges. The licensee is authorized to initially mount specifically fixed gauges, but has not mounted any gauges at the facility. The licensee employs a contractor to perform leak tests and shutter checks of its generally licensed gauges.

PERFORMANCE OBSERVATIONS

The inspector interviewed the radiation safety officer and several authorized users and verified that personnel were knowledgeable regarding their responsibilities under the licensee. The inspector toured the plant and looked at the specifically and generally licensed gauges. The inspector performed independent radiation surveys and did not identify any abnormal radiation levels. The inspector reviewed records for leak tests, shutter checks, and inventories performed. The inspector identified one violation involving the licensee's failure to leak test the nickel-63 gas chromatograph detector cell every 6 months as required by 10 CFR 31.5(c)(2). The licensee implemented corrective actions that included leak testing the detector cell, training the lab supervisor on the correct leak test frequency, and adding a column to the master inventory list for the date of the last leak test.

The inspector also reviewed the facilities generally licensed devices that were registered annually with the NRC on NRC Form 664, "General Licensee Registration." The inspector determined that 12 cesium-137 gauges listed on Form 664, Section 2, were specifically licensed and should not have been listed on the form. The inspector viewed each of these cesium-137 fixed gauges and verified that none of the gauges were labelled as being generally licensed. The inspector also noted that these cesium-137 gauges model numbers were also listed on the licensee's NRC specific license. The inspector also noted that the strontium-90 device listed on Form 664 was properly listed in Section 2 of Form 664. In addition, the five krypton-85 and three cesium-137 generally licensed devices were appropriately listed on Form 664.