



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION IV  
1600 E. LAMAR BLVD.  
ARLINGTON, TX 76011-4511

December 12, 2014

EA-14-182

Susan Fraser, President/CEO  
High Mountain Inspection Service, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1508  
Mills, WY 82644-1508

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 030-33887/2014-002

Dear Ms. Fraser:

This letter refers to the inspection conducted on October 7, 2014, at a temporary job site located near Wright, Wyoming, in an area of NRC's jurisdiction, with subsequent in-office reviews through December 3, 2014. The purpose of the inspection was an examination of activities conducted under your license as they relate to safety and compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations, and with the conditions of your NRC license. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selected examination of procedures and representative records, observation of activities, and interviews with personnel. The enclosed report presents the results of this inspection. The inspector discussed the preliminary inspection findings with Mr. Kevin MacManus, Radiation Safety Officer, at the conclusion of the onsite portion of the inspection. A final exit briefing was conducted telephonically with Mr. MacManus on December 3, 2014.

Based on the results of this inspection, one apparent violation was identified and is being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the NRC Enforcement Policy. The current Enforcement Policy is included on the NRC's Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/enforcement/enforce-pol.html>. The apparent violation involves the failure to conduct a survey when approaching the radiography camera and guide tube as required by 10 CFR 34.49(b). The circumstances surrounding this apparent violation, the significance of the issue, and the need for lasting and effective corrective actions were discussed with members of your staff at the inspection exit meeting on December 3, 2014. As a result, it may not be necessary to conduct a pre-decisional enforcement conference in order to enable the NRC to make an enforcement decision.

In addition, since your facility has not been the subject of escalated enforcement actions within the last 2 years or last two inspections, and based on our understanding of your corrective action, a civil penalty may not be warranted in accordance with Section 2.3.4 of the Enforcement Policy. The final decision will be based on you confirming on the license docket that the corrective actions previously described to the NRC staff have been or are being taken.

Before the NRC makes its enforcement decision, we are providing you an opportunity to: (1) respond to the apparent violation addressed in this inspection report within 30 days of the date of this letter, or (2) request a Pre-decisional Enforcement Conference (PEC). If a PEC is held, it will be open for public observation and the NRC will issue a press release to announce the time and date of the conference. If you decide to participate in a PEC, please contact Mr. Michael Vasquez at 817-200-1130 within 10 days of the date of this letter. A PEC should be held within 30 days of the date of this letter.

If you choose to provide a written response, it should be clearly marked as a "Response to An Apparent Violation in NRC Inspection Report 030-33887/2014-002; EA-14-182" and should include for each apparent violation: (1) the reason for the apparent violation or, if contested, the basis for disputing the apparent violation; (2) the corrective steps that have been taken and the results achieved; (3) the corrective steps that will be taken; and (4) the date when full compliance will be achieved. For your consideration, the guidance in NRC Information Notice 96-28, "Suggested Guidance Relating to Development and Implementation of Corrective Action," may be helpful. You can find the Information Notice on the NRC Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/gen-comm/info-notices/1996/in96028.html>. Your response may reference or include previously docketed correspondence, if the correspondence adequately addresses the required response. If an adequate response is not received within the time specified or an extension of time has not been granted by the NRC, the NRC will proceed with its enforcement decision or schedule a PEC.

If you choose to request a PEC, the conference will afford you the opportunity to provide your perspective on these matters and any other information that you believe the NRC should take into consideration before making an enforcement decision. The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. This conference would be conducted to obtain information to assist the NRC in making an enforcement decision. The topics discussed during the conference may include information to determine whether a violation occurred, information to determine the significance of a violation, information related to the identification of a violation, and information related to any corrective actions taken or planned. In presenting your corrective action, you should be aware that the promptness and comprehensiveness of your actions will be considered in assessing any civil penalty for the apparent violations.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response, if you choose to provide one, will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be made available to the Public without redaction.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Michael Vasquez of my staff at 817-200-1130.

Sincerely,

***/RA/LLHowell for***

Mark R. Shaffer, Director  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket: 030-33887  
License: 49-26808-02

Enclosure: Inspection Report 030-33887/2014-002

cc: Wyoming Radiation Control Program Director

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Michael Vasquez of my staff at 817-200-1130.

Sincerely,

***/RA/LLHowell for***

Mark R. Shaffer, Director  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket: 030-33887  
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Enclosure:  
Inspection Report 030-33887/2014-002

cc w/Enclosure:  
Wyoming Radiation Control Program Director

Distribution:  
M. Dapas, RA  
K. Kennedy, DRA  
M. Shaffer, D:DNMS  
L. Howell, DD:DNMS  
J. Whitten, C:NMSB-B  
R4DNMS\_MS-A  
M. Herrera, Fee Coordinator

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OFFICE	RIV/DNMS	C:NMSB-A	C:ACES	D:DNMS				
NAME	DLStearns	GMVasquez	VHCampbell	MRShaffer				
SIGNATURE	<b><i>/GMVasquez RA for/</i></b>	<b><i>/RA/</i></b>	<b><i>/RSBrowder RA for/</i></b>	<b><i>/LLHowell RA for/</i></b>				
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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION IV

Report: 030-33887/2014-002  
Docket: 030-33887  
License: 49-26808-02  
EA: EA-14-182  
Licensee: High Mountain Inspection Services, Inc.  
Facility: Temporary Job Site  
Location Inspected: Temporary Job Site located  
near Wright, Wyoming  
Inspection Date: October 7, 2014 through December 3, 2014  
Inspectors: Don Stearns, Health Physicist  
Approved By: G. Michael Vasquez, Chief  
Nuclear Materials Safety Branch A

Enclosure

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### High Mountain Inspection Services, Inc. NRC Inspection Report 030-33887/2014-002

This was an inspection of High Mountain Inspection Services, Inc. involving the use of byproduct material for industrial radiographic operations conducted on October 7, 2014, at a temporary job site located near Wright, Wyoming. The inspection also consisted of in-office reviews through December 3, 2014. The scope of the inspection included review of selected licensee records and procedures, direct observation of radiographic operations, and discussions with licensee personnel concerning radiation safety and security, compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations, and the conditions of the license. This report describes the findings of the inspection.

#### Program Overview

High Mountain Inspection Services, Inc. is authorized to conduct industrial radiography under NRC License 49-26808-02 at temporary job sites throughout the United States and territorial Federal waters where the NRC maintains jurisdiction for regulating the use of licensed material. (Section 1)

#### Apparent Violation

One apparent violation of 10 CFR 34.49(b) was identified involving the failure to conduct a survey when the assistant radiographer approached the radiographic exposure device and the source guide tube after completing a radiographic exposure. (Section 2.2)

#### Corrective Actions

The licensee's radiation safety officer counseled the radiographer and radiographer's assistant to reemphasize the requirements for performing a survey while approaching the exposure device and source guide tube.

The licensee's radiation safety officer stated he performed unannounced field audits of additional radiography crews to ensure radiation safety requirements were being implemented by the radiographers and radiographer's assistants.

## REPORT DETAILS

### **1 Program Overview (87121)**

#### 1.1 Inspection Scope

On October 7, 2014, at the licensee's temporary job site located near Wright, Wyoming, the inspector observed radiographic operations and reviewed the NRC license and correspondence, statements, representations, and procedures provided by the licensee in support of their application for the license. The inspector reviewed records maintained by the licensee and interviewed licensee personnel. Collectively, the activities observed and the documents reviewed described the licensee's implementation of its NRC license requirements and its radiation safety program.

#### 1.2 Observations and Findings

High Mountain Inspection Services, Inc. is authorized under NRC Materials License 49-26808-02 to possess and use byproduct material for industrial radiographic operations at locations specified on the license and at temporary job sites in the United States where the NRC maintains jurisdiction for regulating the use of byproduct material. At the time of the inspection, the licensee was using licensed material at a temporary jobsite near Wright, Wyoming.

### **2 Inspection Findings (87121)**

#### 2.1 Inspection Scope

The inspector conducted an unannounced review of licensed activities at a temporary jobsite near Wright, Wyoming, on October 7, 2014. The inspector observed radiographic operations and conducted interviews with licensee personnel, which included a radiographer and a radiographer's assistant, and reviewed documentation pertaining to licensee's operating and emergency procedures, transportation procedures, and annual refresher training.

#### 2.2 Observations and Findings

##### **Apparent Violation of 10 CFR 34.49(b)**

10 CFR 34.49(b) requires, in part, that the licensee shall conduct a survey of the radiographic exposure device and the guide tube after each exposure when approaching the device or guide tube.

On October 7, 2014, the inspector performed an unannounced temporary job site inspection at an Anadarko natural gas facility near Wright, Wyoming. The inspector observed that excavation had been performed to provide access to underground piping in order to perform weld repair and radiography of the new weld. The excavation was about 8 feet deep (vertical drop) and the sides were sloped. The slope was relatively steep.

After welding a repair on the pipe, the inspector observed the radiographer and radiographer's assistant set up equipment to perform radiography of the new weld. The restricted area boundary was properly posted. The physical set up entailed the camera and guide tube positioned near the bottom of the excavation near the pipes that had been welded. The radiographer's assistant had the survey meter with him at the edge of the excavation (ground level) with the crank out assembly. The radiographer provided direct supervision of the radiographer's assistant as the radiographer's assistant made the first exposure and then retracted the source into the camera. Immediately after retracting the source, the radiographer's assistant walked down the excavation a couple of steps when the inspector, in a loud voice, warned the radiographer's assistant that he needed his survey instrument. Because of the steep drop, the radiographer's assistant took a couple more steps (to within 4 - 5 feet of the radiography camera), stopped, and walked back up the excavation to obtain the survey instrument which was at ground level next to the crank out assembly. The survey confirmed that the source had been returned to the fully-shielded position.

The sequence of events from the time the source was retracted until the inspector yelled was only a couple of seconds. Throughout this time, the inspector observed the radiographer providing direct observation of the radiographer's assistant. When interviewed, the radiographer's assistant stated he was focused on changing out the film and forgot the survey meter. When interviewed, the radiographer stated he didn't stop the radiographer's assistant because the inspector stopped him first. Subsequent exposures were properly performed using the survey instrument as required.

The failure to conduct a survey of the radiographic exposure device and the guide tube after each exposure when approaching the device or source guide tube is an apparent violation of 10 CFR 34.49(b). (030-33887/14002-01)

### 2.3 Conclusions

The inspector identified one apparent violation, involving the failure to conduct a survey when approaching the radiography camera and source guide tube, as required by 10 CFR 34.49(b).

### 3 **Corrective Actions**

The licensee's Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) immediately counseled the radiographer and radiographer's assistant to reemphasize the requirements for performing a survey while approaching the exposure device and guide tube.

The RSO performed unannounced field audits of other radiography crews to ensure radiation safety was being implemented by the radiographers and radiographer's assistants.



#### **4 Exit Meeting Summary**

A preliminary exit briefing was conducted at the conclusion of the onsite inspection with Mr. Kevin MacManus, RSO. On December 3, 2014, a final exit briefing was conducted telephonically with Mr. MacManus. The licensee acknowledged the inspector's findings. No proprietary information was discussed.

PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

Kevin MacManus, Radiation Safety Officer

INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED

87121 Industrial Radiography Programs

ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED, AND DISCUSSED

Opened

030-33887/14002-01	APV	The licensee failed to conduct a survey when the radiographer's assistant approached the radiographic exposure device and the source guide tube after completing a radiographic exposure. This was identified as an apparent violation of 10 CFR 34.49(b).
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Closed

None

Discussed

None

LIST OF ACRONYMS USED

APV    apparent violation  
CFR    *Code of Federal Regulations*  
NRC    Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
PEC    Predecisional Enforcement Conference  
RSO    Radiation Safety Officer