



Region I Office
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety
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Telephone Conversation Record

Date: 12/23-24/2014

License No.:52-25066-01

Docket No.:03031302

Mail Control/Report No.: MLER-RI:2014-013

Licensee Name: Essroc San Juan

Participant(s) Name/Title: David Rhoe/Consultant

Work Telephone No.: 787-245-7248

Business Cellphone No.:

NRC Representative Name/Title: John Miller

Subject: DNMS Licensee Event Report – Essroc San Juan MLER-RI:2014-013

In a letter dated 12/8/2014, the Radiation Safety Officer at Essroc San Juan reported that during a recent routine inspection of a fixed nuclear gauge, the licensee noticed higher than normal radiation levels. The licensee consultant investigated the unusual radiation level readings and discovered that the Pb shield was no longer intact.

Discussion: On 12/23/14 Miller phoned the licensee RSO and she could not be reached. Miller called the licensee's consultant David Rhoe. Mr. Rhoe informed Miller that about one month ago the licensee was performing an area survey around the nuclear gauge and they noticed elevated radiation readings. Mr. Rhoe stated that normally the radiation fields are measured at approximately 0.06 mR/hr and the licensee measured 1.2-1.4 mR/hr. Rhoe stated that he was called to investigate. He confirmed that the radiation levels were 1.2 – 1.4 mR/hr at about 2 feet from the nuclear gauge. Miller asked how long this condition existed and Mr. Rhoe responded that it couldn't have been more than 6 months when the last area survey was performed. He added that the elevated levels were caused by the "disintegrating" Pb shielding. Mr Rhoe stated that the licensee had called the manufacturer and a service call was scheduled for January 2015 to evaluate the condition of the Pb shielding. At that time the licensee would like to have a new source loaded into the gauge and that they have submitted a license amendment request to authorize the larger activity source. Miller asked Mr. Rhoe if there had been any personnel

exposure issues associated the gauge in this compromised condition. He asked if anyone had been performing maintenance on the gauge. Mr. Rhoé stated that he was not aware of any personnel exposure issues. He stated that the report submitted in the 12/8/14 letter was a report required by 10 CFR Part 21 for reporting possible defects.

On 12/24/14, Miller called Mr. Rhoé again and asked him when the licensee submitted the license amendment request. Rhoé indicated that it was submitted 2 or 3 weeks ago. He added that the Essroc San Juan facility was shut down until the end of January and that the licensee was hopeful that the gauge assessment and source load could be accomplished by the manufacturer prior to start-up. Miller told Mr. Rhoé that he would look out the license amendment request.

Action Required: Immediate – None. These circumstances will be reviewed at the next routine inspection.

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