

December 2, 2015

Scott Moore, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

ATTN: GLTS

Dear Mr. Moore,


In accordance with 10 CFR 31.5(c)(5), please be advised that the West Virginia University Radiation Safety Department staff identified an apparent leaking sealed radioactive source. The apparent leaking source was identified by a leak test performed on November 12, 2015 on behalf of the WVU National Resource Center for Coal and Energy (NRCCE) analytical lab. The leak test identified 0.0076 microcuries (μCi) of activity from a Nickel-63 detector cell assembly as part of an Electron Capture Detector (ECD).

The ECD is a Varian, Inc, Model 02-001972-00, S/N A-10623. The 15 millicurie Ni-63 source was received at West Virginia University on 11/28/1994 by Raymond Lovett, NRCCE analytical laboratory director, under the General License from Varian, Inc. On November 11, 2015 the Nickel-63 source was removed from the research laboratory and transferred to Radiation Safety for shipment and disposal. A leak test was performed on November 12th using a cotton swab and a Perkin Elmer Tri-Carb 2810 TR liquid scintillation counter to count the swab. The test revealed an apparent removable activity of approximately 0.007 μCi . A subsequent leak test was taken on November 13th which also revealed an apparent removable activity of approximately 0.007 μCi .

A thorough radiological survey was conducted in the research laboratory in which this device was used. No contamination was identified during the survey. The source will be decontaminated and shipped to Bruker Detection Corporation for disposal.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at WVU Radiation Safety Department (304-293-3413) should you have any questions or comments regarding this notification.

Sincerely,


Nasser Razmianfar
Director and Radiation Safety Officer

Cc: Richard Bajura

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