

Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region IV
1600 E. Lamar Blvd.
Arlington, TX 76011

To whom it may concern,

This is a report to comply with 10 CFR 30.50(c)(2) in accordance with 10 CFR 30.50(b)(2) regarding NRC Event Number 52509.

- (i) A description of the event, including the probable cause and the manufacturer and model number (if applicable) of any equipment that failed or malfunctioned;

On January 24th, at 1430, I was doing a scheduled inspection of one of our nuclear sources, when I discovered that the shutter was stuck. Since there was an abundance of wet sandy material around the shutter, I cleaned it off and tried again. The shutter handle moved, but it felt like something inside had broken. Actuation of the shutter caused no change in the reading that the control room was getting, so I knew something had happened to the source. After contacting the manufacturer (Ronan) to discuss the issue, I contacted the NRC Regional office (after hours) and verbally filed a report of the incident with them. As stated, the manufacturer of the source holder is Ronan and the model is an SA-1-C5, number M4884.

- (ii) The exact location of the event;

North Cyclo-Pac feed pipe. Fort Knox Mine Mill, outside of Fairbanks Alaska.

- (iii) The isotopes, quantities, and chemical and physical form of the licensed material involved;

Cs-137, 1000 mCi solid, double encapsulated.

- (iv) Date and time of the event;

January 24th, at 1430 hrs.

- (v) Corrective actions taken or planned and the results of any evaluations or assessments; and

Attached is the manufacturers' report that states repairs have been made to the source holder and assessments made for replacement. The report also shows the results of the manufacturers wipe test taken after re-installation of the source holder.

- (vi) The extent of exposure of individuals to radiation or to radioactive materials without identification of individuals by name.

The extent of exposure to any individuals would be zero (0). With the source mounted in place, it is out of traffic areas and when the source was removed for repair, I barricaded the entire area around the source beyond 45 feet (43 feet required).

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