

PERKIN-ELMER

The Perkin-Elmer Corporation

Main Avenue
Norwalk, Connecticut 06856
(203) 762-1000
Telex 965-954

May 22, 1979

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
631 Park Ave.
King of Prussia, Pa. 19406
Attn: Mr. Robert McClintock

Re: License Number: 06-02135-08
Expiration Date: April 30, 1984
Loss of Ni-63 - Electron Capture Detector Cell

Gentlemen:

It has been recently been brought to the attention of the Office of the General Counsel, The Perkin-Elmer Corporation, that an Electron Capture Detector Cell containing Nickel-63, Part Number 009-0282 is missing. Perkin-Elmer was licensed to possess this material as referenced above.

The Electron Capture Detector Cell which is missing contains a foil composed of Nickel-63 and other, non-regulated metals; no more than 15 millicuries are contained within a sealed, metal container. Such a cell is small enough to be concealed in the hand, and, when last seen, was packed within a small cardboard box, to which was affixed the yellow radiation symbol.

At this time it has not been determined whether the cell was mis-placed or stolen. Thirteen such cells were received by Perkin-Elmer on April 10, 1979. These cells were inspected in-house on April 20, 1979, tested on May 7, 1979 and stocked on May 8, 1979. On each occasion all thirteen cells were accounted for, and written records confirm this. On May 14, 1979, after ten such cells were shipped, a shipping room employee reported to a supervisor that only two cells remained in stock. Such cells are kept in locked containers, to which only authorized personnel have access, until such time as they are ready to be shipped. The company has no further information as of this date.

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It is not likely that any person has been exposed, or will be exposed, to radiation due to this incident. When this cell was wipe-tested for surface contamination on April 4, 1979, it showed a specific activity rating of 1.81×10^{-5} uCi/Total. The cell is designed so as not to emit radiation from within. It is possible that a person might intentionally expose himself by removing the allen bolts which are used to secure the cell, although it should be noted that the cell itself is clearly labelled with the radiation symbol.

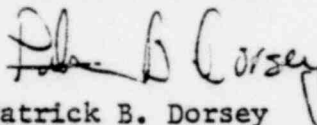
The following actions will be taken immediately to recover the cell:

- a) Corporate Security will be directed to pursue an investigation of the loss and forward to this office its conclusions; and
- b) A search will be conducted in-house to determine if the missing cell can be located.

At this time it has not been determined whether or not procedures should be revised or adopted to prevent a recurrence of this situation. However, the Director of Corporate Safety will make a review and forward to this office his conclusions.

The Perkin-Elmer Corporation will report any substantive additional information on this loss to the Commission, as well as our final resolution.

Very truly yours,



Patrick B. Dorsey
Corporate Attorney

jlc

cc: Director of Inspection and Enforcement
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Mr. Art Heubner
Radiation Control Unit
State Department of Environmental Protection
State Office Building
Hartford, CT 06115

K. Lash
J. Frattaroli
M. Moore
J. Sartori
J. Saxton
J. Croce

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June 13, 1979

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
631 Park Ave.
King of Prussia, Pa. 19406
Attn: Mr. Robert McClintock

Re: License Number: 06-02135-08
Expiration Date: April 30, 1984
Loss of Ni-63 - Electron Capture Detector Cell

Gentlemen:

This letter should be considered supplementary to mine
of 22 May, 1979.

An investigation of the events surrounding the loss of the
electron capture detector cell containing Ni-63 has been completed
by corporate security and an analysis of the internal control
procedures utilized with regard to such cells has been made
by the Director of Corporate Safety. To date the cell has not
been recovered.

From these reports it can be concluded that the missing cell
was removed from a locked wooden cabinet in the shipping room.
Paperwork documents the presence of the cell at each control
point from receipt on the premises, through testing, up until
delivery to the shipping room. It is unlikely that the cell
was removed inadvertently.

At the time of the loss, the cabinet in the shipping room
was so constructed that it would have been possible to remove
a cell without unlocking it, but this procedure would have
required the destruction of the cardboard box in which the cell
was packed. It has been suggested a new cabinet be constructed
and this will be accomplished in the near future.

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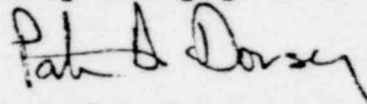
DUPLICATE

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It has also been suggested that the control procedure be modified somewhat so as to require signatures acknowledging receipt of the cells at each point along the route from corporate receiving through shipment. Furthermore, as each cell is shipped it will be logged with date, and serial number and signed for.

If any further information is required I will be pleased to supply it.

Very truly yours,



Patrick B. Dorsey
Corporate Attorney

jlc

cc: Director of Inspection and Enforcement
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

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