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CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

COMMISSION
MAIL SECTION

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Washington, D. C. 20555

Gentlemen:

We are reviewing our emergency procedures in regard to radioactive materials, and have some questions about the possible effect of a fire on a five-curie (80-gram) plutonium-beryllium neutron source.

I note that the ANSI standard adopted in 1977 specifies that such a source will tolerate 1 hour at 400°C. However, our source was shipped in 1963 by Nuclear Materials and Equipment Co. (NUMEC) of Apollo, Pa. It bears the serial number 800-P-8. A catalog in our files, dated 1962, describes a model NUMEC-P encapsulated in a container whose side walls consist of .03 inch stainless steel lined with .07 inch tantalum. The ends are heavier.

Since I am unable to find a current address for NUMEC, I wonder if you have in your files a record of the safety criteria under which this product was originally licensed. If so, I would be grateful for information regarding those criteria.

Incidentally, our own license for this source is number SNM-554.

I regret the necessity of adding to your workload at this hectic time, and will be grateful for any help you can give me.

Sincerely,

Baruch S. Jacobson
Physics Department
Radiation Safety Officer
Brooks Hall

July 11, 1979

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