

Static Control Systems/3M

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55101  
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TIC



August 29, 1979

USNRC  
Region III  
Office of Inspection & Enforcement  
799 Roosevelt Road  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Gentlemen:

The purpose of this letter is to report an incident of leakage of a generally licensed static eliminator in excess of 0.005 uci as required by 10CFR31.5(c)(5). The device which showed leakage had been located at the Portage Industries Plant in Portage, Wisconsin. This report is made on behalf of the general licensee, Portage Industries, by 3M Company.

The device involved was a 72" Model 315 Static Eliminator, Serial No. 181382. This device was one of two returned to 3M in August of 1979. The device had been manufactured in April of 1978. Because of the appearance of damage on the device, including a missing end plug and a hole drilled through one of the radioactive images, a routine smear test was conducted revealing the presence of 0.007 uci of Po-210. A tap test following the smear test resulted in removal of 0.027 uci and all additional tests were negative.

Portage Industries was contacted and the plant was visited by a 3M technical person on August 22, 1979. During his visit a complete contamination survey was made of the appropriate areas on the production floor with no activity detected. Smear tests were also made around the area with one of 60 smears showing a slight positive result (0.0006 uci). This area was rewiped and showed no activity on a rewipe.

The problem had occurred as a result of breakage of the end plugs followed by unauthorized maintenance on the devices by Portage Industries personnel. The situation was discussed with Portage Industries management and a new mounting mechanism developed which will prevent this problem in the future.

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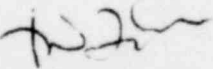
Based on the results of our survey and the interviews with Portage Industries, we feel that there is no likelihood of a recurrence of this situation nor was there any contamination to equipment or personnel as a result of this incident.

The appropriate contact for any questions you may have concerning this situation at Portage Industries is:

Ray Rogers  
Maintenance Supervisor  
Portage Industries  
1325 Adams Street  
Portage, WI 53090  
(608) 742-7123

If you have any technical questions concerning this device or the tests which were run on it, please feel free to contact me personally at any time.

Very truly yours,



T. N. Lahr  
Regulatory Affairs Manager

TNL/sam/Cgh