

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

Region I

Report No. 70-820/79-01

Docket No. 70-820

License No. SNM-777 Priority 1 Safeguards Group 1
Category UR

Licensee: United Nuclear Corporation

Wood River Junction, Rhode Island 02894

Facility Name: Fuel Recovery Operation

Inspection at: Wood River Junction, Rhode Island

Inspection conducted: January 8-16, 1979

Inspectors: A. Gody

A. Gody, Safeguards Inspector

FEB. 2, 1979
date signed

G. Smith

G. Smith, Auditor

FEB 7 1979
date signed

T. Shaub

T. Shaub, Safeguards Technician

FEB 5, 1979
date signed

Approved by: J. H. Joyner

J. H. Joyner, Chief, Nuclear Material Control
Support Section, Safeguards Branch

2-9-79
date signed

Inspection Summary:

Inspection on January 8-16, 1979 (Report No. 70-820/79-01)

Areas Inspected: Routine, unannounced inspection by 3 regional based inspectors of nuclear material control and accounting in the areas of measurements; storage and internal control; verification of SNM for export; and review of a previous inspection finding. In these areas, the inspection involved 126 inspector-hours on site by 3 NRC regional based inspector. In addition, 4 inspector-hours on site were spent reviewing the criticality and health and safety areas.

Results: Of the five areas inspected no apparent items of noncompliance were identified in four areas; three apparent items of non-compliance were identified in one area (infraction - criticality safety limits exceeded - paragraph 6; infraction - failure to follow radiological safety procedures regarding washing, smoking, and contamination survey - paragraph 6; deficiency - storage of SNM in an area with no posted criticality safety limits - paragraph 6).

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DETAILS

1. Persons Contacted

- *A. Clark, Acting Plant Manager
- *D. Daigler, Acting Quality Assurance Manager
- L. LaFond, Accountability Assistant*
- J. O'Donnel, Nuclear Materials Assistant
- J. Deluty, Plant Chemist

The inspectors also interviewed other licensee employees during the course of the inspection. These included operators and nuclear material control personnel.

*denotes those present at the exit interview.

2. Licensee Action on Previous Inspection Findings

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3. Measurements and Statistical Control

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No items of noncompliance were identified.

4. Storage and Internal Control

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No items of noncompliance were identified.

5. Verification of SNM for Export

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No items of noncompliance were identified.

6. Criticality and Health and Safety

As part of the observation of reblending of the NUKEM export shipment, the inspectors also reviewed licensee adherence to Health and Safety procedures. During this review, operators were observed placing two product containers, containing U-235 in excess of the posted limit, on the desk in the nondestructive assay area. Also, two product containers containing U-235 in excess of the posted limit were observed on the product scale.

This is an infraction (79-01-01).

During the reblending of the NUKEM export shipment, personnel were observed smoking in the "hot" locker room on the restricted side of the change line. The personnel did not wash or monitor for contamination prior to smoking. This practice is contrary to SOP I-F, Revision II, "Health Physics," which requires personnel to wash and monitor hands prior to obtaining cigarettes, coffee, or lunch or leaving the plant.

Also, as the inspectors were leaving the plant on January 9 and 10, 1979, licensee employees were observed exiting the contaminated area and not following contamination control procedures. Specifically:

- a. On January 9, 1979, a licensee employee was observed monitoring with an inoperable monitor; and,
- b. On January 10, 1979, a licensee employee was observed exiting the contaminated area and not monitoring.

The above examples are contrary to SOP-IH, "Contamination Control," which requires that personnel leaving the contamination control area monitor hands and all personal clothing and specifies that Nuclear and Industrial Safety will assure that radiation monitors are provided, calibrated and operating correctly at the contamination area exit.

This is an infraction (79-01-02).

Additionally, during the review the inspectors observed high and low enriched uranium stored on the bookcase in the foreman's office. There were no posted criticality safety limits for the office or bookcase.

This is contrary to Section 307, "Marking and Labeling," of the licensee's approved license application which requires signs listing approved nuclear criticality safety limits be posted so that information is readily discernible to employees.

This is a deficiency (79-01-03).

7. Exit Interview

The inspectors met with licensee representatives (denoted in paragraph 1) on January 12, 1979 and summarized the purpose and scope of the inspection and informed the licensee that three items of noncompliance were identified. One inspector met with a licensee representative on January 16, 1979 and informed the licensee that the inspection was complete and no further items of noncompliance were identified.

EXHIBIT A

Tampersafing Check List

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