

OCT. 18 1989

CAL 89-12

General License

General Foods Corporation
Maxwell House Division
ATTN: George Murphy
External Affairs Manager for
Maxwell House Division
1125 Hudson Street
Hoboken, New Jersey 07030

Gentlemen:

This refers to the telephone conversation between you and Mr. J. White of my staff on October 13, 1989, regarding the missing Ohmart Nuclear Gauge containing about 50 mCi of cesium-137 in the device.

With regard to this matter, we understand that you will initiate the following actions immediately:

1. Interview all personnel who may have knowledge concerning the disposition of the nuclear device; including, when the device was last seen, how the device was removed and its current probable location.
2. Inquire at all scrap yards that reasonably could have acquired the nuclear device as scrap metal, to determine if the device was purchased by or salvaged at those facilities. Such inquiry should include a search of those facilities and the identification of foundries to which scrap metals that may have contained the gauge were provided.
3. Arrange for a radiation safety (health physics) contractor to perform radiological surveys at the subject scrap facilities and foundries identified from Item 2, to verify that the device or the associated radioactive material are not currently in an unrestricted area.
4. Post and distribute photos of the device at the plant and at the scrap yards and/or foundries from item 2.
5. Offer a reward for the return of the device or information leading to its recovery.
6. Inform the Mayor of Hoboken, New Jersey of the loss of the device.
7. Provide an interim status report within 10 working days from the date of this letter, of your actions in this matter. Such report may be made by telephone to Mr. John White (215-337-5102) or Mr. John Miller (215-337-5304) of this office.

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8. Provide a written report within 30 working days from the date of this letter, that describes this event, actions taken to locate and recover the nuclear device, and the results achieved.

Issuance of this Confirmatory Action Letter does not preclude the issuance of an Order formalizing the above commitments. If your understanding differs from that set forth above, please call Mr. John Miller of this office immediately.

The response required by this letter is not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
Malcolm R. Knapp

Malcolm R. Knapp, Director
Division of Radiation Safety
and Safeguards

cc:
Public Document Room (PDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
State of New Jersey

bcc:
Region I Docket Room (w/concurrences)
Management Assistant, DRMA
J. Lieberman, OE
J. Goldberg, OGC
R. Cunningham, NMSS
W. Russell, RI
T. Martin, RI
M. Knapp, RI
J. Joyner, RI
D. Holody, RI
L. Bettenhausen, RI
J. White, RI
J. Miller, RI
D. Collins, RI
A. Kirkwood, RI

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Collins

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RI:RA
Russell

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RI:DRSS
White

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RI:DRSS
Bettenhausen

NBS
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RI:DRSS
Boyer

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MR
RI:DRSS
Knapp

10/17/89

MR
RI:DRA
Martin

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