

QUESTION 2:

It is my understanding that both Self-Powered Lighting, Inc. and Surelite, Ltd., have outstanding tritium orders with DOE. Will further shipments to those firms be suspended pending completion of the NRC's investigation? If not, please explain why the NRC would permit such shipments to continue and what specific measures are being taken to avoid further discrepancies.

ANSWER:

In a press release dated July 25, 1969, DOE announced that all shipments of tritium to commercial customers from the DOE facility in Oak Ridge were suspended pending a review of the measurement and loading operations at Oak Ridge. DOE ordered this suspension so that current DOE contractor practices and procedures could be reviewed and evaluated and measures could be implemented to avoid further discrepancies. The investigation has progressed to the point where DOE made a determination on August 16, 1989 that tritium shipments could be resumed to all customers, except those overseas with unresolved discrepancies. Resumption is contingent upon compliance with specified conditions established by DOE, which include improvements in measurement, packaging, shipping procedures and formalization of administrative matters with commercial customers. These conditions were established to avoid further accounting discrepancies between shippers and receivers. It is our understanding that, under this approach, DOE would be in a position to resume shipments to Self-Powered Lighting, Inc. (a domestic licensee) for domestic use but not to Surelite, Ltd.

Based on the information available from the ongoing evaluation there is no indication that the discrepancies have resulted from unauthorized activities. Although NRC does not plan to suspend or revoke current export licenses, NRC will evaluate the findings and recommendations of the special investigative team and determine what actions are appropriate to ensure compliance with requirements under 10 CFR Part 110.

With respect to possible outstanding tritium orders for Self-Powered Lighting, Inc. and Surelite, Ltd., detailed information on the status of outstanding orders should be obtained from DOE.