

QUESTION 7:

The NRC staff memo also states that "the possibility exists that there may be shipper-receiver differences between ORNL and domestic licensees that purchase tritium from DOE." What is the basis for this statement and which domestic licensees are being investigated?

ANSWER:

In view of the fact that shipper-receiver differences had occurred in connection with exports, it was reasonable to suspect that differences might also have occurred with domestic transactions. A sampling of licensees indicated that although there were small differences, the receivers have not pursued their resolution. For the purpose of obtaining a clearer understanding of Surelite's measurement and handling procedures in the United Kingdom, the initial DOE investigative team visited Self-Powered Lighting, Inc., a domestic licensee, whose procedures are understood to be comparable to Surelite's. DOE recently requested NRC assistance in reviewing the processing and handling procedures at Self-Powered Lighting, Inc. and Safety Light Corporation, another domestic licensee. In response to this request, on August 23, 1989, NRC conducted a special inspection of Safety Light Corporation with DOE participating in an observer capacity. The State of New York is scheduling an inspection of Self-Powered Lighting with representatives of NRC and DOE present since the facility is an Agreement State licensee.