

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I

Enforcement Conference Report No. 999-00001/89-014

Enforcement Action No. 89-247

Docket No. 999-00001

Non-Licensee

Licensee: General Foods Corporation
Maxwell House Division
1125 Hudson Street
Hoboken, New Jersey 07030

Enforcement Conference at: Region I, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania

Enforcement Conference Conducted: December 21, 1989

Prepared by: John J. Miller
for David J. Collins, Health Physicist

1/9/90
date

Approved by: John J. Miller
John J. Miller, Acting Chief
Nuclear Materials Safety Section C

1/9/90
date

Summary: The findings documented in Inspection Report No. 999-00001/89-014 were discussed. The licensee described corrective actions taken or planned. The NRC's Enforcement Policy was explained.

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DETAILS

1.0 Persons Attending

1.1 General Foods Corporation, Maxwell House Division

George Murphy, External Affairs Manager
Robert Lawrence, Jr., Manager, Environmental Affairs

1.2 Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Lee H. Bettenhausen, Chief, Nuclear Materials Safety Branch
John J. Miller, Acting Chief, Nuclear Materials Safety Section C
David J. Collins, Health Physicist
Daniel J. Holody, Enforcement Officer

2.0 Conference Summary

- 2.1 Introductions were made and the representatives of General Foods Corporation were addressed by Dr. Bettenhausen. Dr. Bettenhausen explained the purpose of the conference. He indicated the NRC was concerned not only about the specific violation cited, but also with the possible hazards to the public resulting from the loss of the density gauge.
- 2.2 Mr. Murphy stated that the licensee viewed the incident seriously and stated that further steps were being taken by the licensee and its parent company. He stated that the incident was not representative of normal practice.
- 2.3 Mr. Murphy noted an error in the inspection report concerning the name Steve Tibus. No such individual works for Maxwell House Division. The proper person is Arthur Peets, Boiler House Engineer.
- 2.4 Mr. Collins reviewed the inspection findings. He stated that the loss of the Ohmart density gauge, was in effect an unauthorized transfer of radioactive material to an individual not authorized to receive it.

- 2.5 Mr. Murphy presented the licensee's corrective actions for the violation which include:
- (1) Assure that the responsible engineers are aware of all equipment containing radioactive material that falls under their purview.
 - (2) Assure all the responsible engineers are aware that equipment containing radioactive material such as nuclear gauges require special handling and that the Safety Engineer (Radiation Safety Officer) must be notified by the responsible engineer of any work in the vicinity of a licensed gauge.
 - (3) The removal of unneeded gauges and gas chromatograph cells from all Maxwell House plants. This is scheduled for January, 1990.
 - (4) Mr. Murphy described the licensee's search for the lost gauge and provided a copy of the bulletin (attached) used inside the plant and the report of the consultant's search through the scrapyards (attached) dated December 5, 1989.
- 2.6 Mr. Lawrence stated that Kraft/General Foods had recently established a radioactive materials safety policy. Mr. Lawrence stated he is the responsible manager within Maxwell House Coffee Company for implementing this policy. One result of this policy has been the directive to identify the locations of radioactive materials throughout the approximately 90 plants in the United States. Mr. Lawrence also stated he reviewed the training and qualifications of the individuals designated as Radiation Safety Officer at the three Maxwell House Coffee plants. The Houston, Texas plant has a qualified Radiation Safety Officer, but the persons designated at the San Leandro, California and Hoboken, New Jersey plants will receive additional training.
- 2.7 Mr. Lawrence stated that the annual safety training audit system will be modified to include sensitivity to radioactive materials.
- 2.8 Mr. Holody described the enforcement options available within the NRC's Enforcement Policy.

3. Closing

Dr. Bettenhausen thanked Messrs. Murphy and Lawrence for their attendance and presentation. He concluded by saying that the information presented would be considered in deciding the appropriate enforcement action to be taken.