



UNITED STATES  
 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
 REGION II  
 101 MARIETTA STREET, N.W.  
 ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30333

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 Washington, D.C.

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Facility Name: Navy Environmental Health Center,  
 Radiological Affairs Support Office,  
 and the Radiation Safety Committee

Inspection Conducted: January 9-12, 1990

Inspector: L. Franklin 1/31/90  
 L. Franklin, Radiation Specialist, Project Manager Date Signed

Inspector: C. Conneil 1/31/90  
 C. Conneil, Radiation Specialist Date Signed

Accompanying Personnel: William E. Cline, Chief, NMSS, DRSS (January 11-12, 1990)  
 J. Philip Stohr, Director, DRSS (January 12, 1990)

Approved by: E. J. McAlpine 1/31/90  
 E. J. McAlpine, Chief Date Signed  
 Radiation Safety Projects Section  
 Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards Branch  
 Division of Radiation Safety and Safeguards

SUMMARY

Scope: Areas inspected during this routine, announced inspection of activities associated with the Navy Master Materials License included summarization of NRC inspections conducted during the past year, review of licensee's inspection program, review of the licensee's system of issuing permits to users, summarization of licensee event reports, and miscellaneous matters.

Results: Within the areas inspected, no violations or deviations were identified during this inspection. Since the previous summary inspection conducted in December 1988, several violations had been reported to the licensee after NRC inspections at various Naval installations. In one case, an NRC inspection resulted in the convening of a management meeting, and in another case an Enforcement Conference was held. These matters are discussed in more detail in this report. The licensee's inspection and licensing programs are well organized and executed. In general, the Navy's response to events was excellent. In discussions with licensee representatives

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at both NEHC and RASO it was determined that neither of these technical centers had been receiving updated policy and guidance directives, standard review plans, and other NRC internal policies for the past two years. This information was not previously known and is in the process of being corrected.

## REPORT DETAILS

### 1. Persons Contacted

#### Licensee Employees

\*Capt. J. Collins, Chairmain, Navy Radiation Safety Committee (NRSC)

#### \*NRSC Membership

CDR M. Knight, Assistant to Executive Secretary, NRSC

CDR. J. Malinoski, Officer in Charge, Radiological Affairs Support Office (RASO)

R. Smith, Technical Director, RASO

R. Lowman, RASO

L. Miller, RASO

W. Morris, RASO

M. Lunsford, RASO

H. Roush, RASO

A. Geyer, RASO

Capt. J. Edwards, Commanding Officer, Navy Environmental Health Center (NEHC)

CDR. A. Greedan, Executive Officer, NEHC

Capt. P. Durfee, NEHC

LCDR. G. Synder, NEHC

P. Tveten, NEHC

D. Clark, NEHC

#### NRC Region II Staff

\*J. P. Stohr, Director, Division of Radiation Safety and Safeguards (DRSS)

\*W. E. Cline, Chief, Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards Branch, DRSS

#### \*Attended exit interview

In addition to the formal exit interview conducted January 12, 1990, exit interviews were conducted January 9 and 10, 1990, at NEHC and RASO respectively.

### 2. Management and Organization

The Navy Master Material License (NMML) was issued on March 23, 1987. NRC, Region II was delegated responsibility for inspection and licensing functions in December 1987.

The NMML is administered by the Navy Radiation Committee (NRSC), which is located in the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) organization. The day-to-day functions are handled by the Executive Secretary of the NRSC.

Permitting and inspection activities are the responsibilities of two Technical Support Centers. The Navy Environmental Health Center (NEHC) issues permits and performs inspections of medical activities, while all



the industrial permits are issued and inspected by the Radiological Affairs Support Office (RASO). Currently, NEHC is responsible for approximately 38 permits and RASO approximately 165 permits under the purview of the NRC.

While permitting and inspection activities are delegated to the Technical Centers, all permitting and inspection activities are sent to the NRSC for final review, approval and release.

The inspectors reviewed staffing levels and qualifications and determined that adequate personnel are available to perform assigned functions and are qualified in accordance with Navy regulations and conditions of the license. The licensee requires that all technical staff members have a bachelor's degree or equivalent training. All technical staff members associated with this program hold at least a bachelor's degree.

### 3. NRC Inspection of Navy Permittees

Since the last annual inspection of the licensee conducted by the NRC in December 1988, NRC inspectors have conducted 17 unannounced inspections of Navy permittees throughout the country. The permittees were selected to include those of a higher inspection priority. Ten of these inspections found no violations, three found minor violations, and four resulted in the issuance of non-compliance letters. Of these four inspections one resulted in the convening of a management meeting due to the appearance of a lack of management oversight. Information provided by the licensee at this meeting showed that this perception was erroneous and no further action resulted. In a second case, a violation involving willfull disregard of regulations resulted in the convening of an Enforcement Conference held on January 5, 1990. The results of this meeting were very informative and the inspection findings were not as serious as they first appeared. The official results of this meeting are not finalized as of the date of this inspection.

One minor problem was noted in the licensee's replies to Notices of Violation. One permittee who had to respond to a Notice of Violation denied a violation that was written against the license condition that notes the licensee's application and statements and representations that must be adhered to. This was discussed at both NEHC and RASO. A supplemental response is required from this permittee.

### 4. Navy Inspections

The NRC inspectors reviewed the licensee's inspection activities for CY 1989. During the year 108 inspections were conducted by naval personnel. The inspection frequency appeared to have met or exceeded NRC policy for each category of permits as required by the license. Ten inspections were overdue, however, all were beyond the control of the licensee. These overdue inspections are as a result of ships at sea, Hurricane Hugo, and the California earthquake. All of these inspections are to be performed by the licensee at the earliest possible time.

It was noted during the last annual inspection that the licensee did not always appear to have inspected new permittees within the time frame as specified in NRC Manual Chapter 2800. This has been corrected by the licensee.

A difference in terminology is used at the technical centers, in the event of multiple violations during an inspection and/or safety significance is apparent. RASO will issue an unsatisfactory rating to a permittee, NEHC does not follow this practice, however potential escalated enforcement is equally effective. During CY 1989, RASO issued two unsatisfactory ratings and NEHC had one similar case. In all three cases enforcement was effective and is consistent with NRC enforcement.

Inspections performed by both NEHC and RASO appeared to be both technically accurate and objective. During the last annual inspection it was noted that in some cases violations were not always clearly documented. A marked improvement was noted during this inspection. Inspection reports were dispatched in a timely manner after appropriate review and signatures. Responses from permittees were reviewed at length for appropriateness and acknowledgement. It was noted that the licensee requested supplemental responses with approximately the same frequency as the NRC. During CY1989 a Region II inspector accompanied a Navy inspector on August 16, 1989. This inspection was at the Naval Hospital, Bethesda, Maryland. The thoroughness of this inspection and the professional manner in which it was conducted was noted.

#### 5. Navy Permitting Activities

The NRC reviewed a representative sample of Navy permits and recent permitting actions issued by RASO and NEHC to determine conformance with NRC licensing policies. The Navy has approximately 200 permits in effect covering a wide variety of activities. Permitting actions reviewed by the inspectors reflected the use of standard license conditions and NRC Review Plans. In addition, several terminated permits were reviewed. All required surveys were documented and NRC Form 314s or equivalent were properly completed. The training and qualifications of permit reviewers were found to be comparable to that of NRC license reviewers. NEHC completed 46 amendment/renewal actions during CY 1989. RASO received 157 amendment/renewal requests during CY 1989. Of this number, 111 were completed, 44 were sent deficiency letters, and two amendment requests were withdrawn. In addition, RASO received 30 requests for new permits.

A philosophical difference was noted in the way that deficiency letters are written by the licensee as opposed to NRC deficiency letters. The licensee will note the deficiencies and will advise the applicant on how to correct these items. NRC leaves the correction of deficiencies to the applicant. This difference is not an issue, in the case of this licensee, where Naval personnel are dealing with other Naval personnel. Accomplished training and competence is already known by the licensee and no need exists to doubt the reliability of the applicant.



## 6. Licensee Event Reports

Diagnostic misadministration reports have been submitted by the licensee as required. A total of eight misadministrations were reported for CY 1989. Considering the number of medical permittees this appears to be a small number and reflects a conservative licensee program. The licensee should, however, attempt to make this number approach zero. No therapeutic misadministrations have occurred during CY 1989.

In April 1988 the licensee required all radiography permittees (approximately 50) to report certain incidents above and beyond those reports required by 10 CFR 20 and 10 CFR 34. These incidents include source disconnects, equipment malfunctions, boundary violations, etc. During CY 1989 permittees submitted 33 reports of which 19 would come under the purview of the NRC. The inspectors reviewed all of these reports and determined that none were reportable to the NRC. In addition, the licensee performed field radiography inspections consistent with NRC policy.

## 7. Training

During CY1989 four Navy technical centers representatives attended the Inspection for Performance Course (G-303) in Atlanta, Georgia, October 10-12, 1989. In addition approximately 20 Navy representatives attended a NRC medical workshop at Richmond, Virginia on December 5, 1989.

## 8. Radiation Safety Committee Meetings

The inspectors evaluated the technical quality of minutes of the Radiation Safety Committee (RSC) meetings held at quarterly intervals. Minutes are provided to Region II throughout the year. The content of these minutes appears to be comprehensive and accurate in reflecting all aspects of the licensee's overall program. The membership of the RSC is as stated in the license application, and the minutes indicate attendance is as required. NRC representatives are usually in attendance during these meetings.

## 9. Exit Briefing

Licensee and NRC representatives identified in paragraph 1 met on January 12, 1990 to summarize the findings of the inspection. The overall competence of licensee personnel was stressed by the inspector and the program appears to be functioning in a very professional manner. NRC representatives spoke about the NRC enforcement policy as it related to this license. The Chairman of the NRSC made a note of his desire to meet with the Regional Administrator at either Region II or at the NRSC offices. It was agreed that such a meeting would be mutually beneficial and the senior NRC representative present stated he would attempt to arrange such a meeting. The licensee did not identify as proprietary any of the materials provided to or reviewed during this inspection.