

DOE, NOT UNDER NRC JOHNS



CENTER FOR ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO

December 5, 1977

*May become
License in
1978.*

*File under
U.P.R.,
Mayaguez*

Rde

Mr. Richard L. Woodruff
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region 11
Suite 818
230 Peachtree Street, N.W.,
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Woodruff:

Enclosed is the report made on the Radioactive contamination found in Magueyes' laboratory of the Mayaguez campus of the University of Puerto Rico.

At the present time the place is clean of radioactive contamination. If we could be of any further help please let us know.

Sincerely yours,

Donald Sasscer
Donald Sasscer
Acting Director

NEI/es

9302240357

REPORT TO: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission
SUBJECT: Radioactive contamination in Magueyes Lab.
DATE OF FINDING: October 26, 1977
TIME: 1:20 P.M.
PLACE: Marine Science Institute
Magueyes Lab.
Magueyes Island

This lab. belong to the Mayaguez campus
of the University of Puerto Rico

DESCRIPTION OF FINDINGS:

1. Several broken vials in a refrigerator, pieces of vial with "Radioactive" label. Liquid spilled around broken glass.
2. One commercial type plastic tube, sealed
Labeled: Sodium Carbonate C-14, 0.5 ml, 0.5 m Ci

IMMEDIATE ACTION TAKEN:

1. Thirteen smear samples were taken in the liquid and other areas considered appropriate.
Smears were counted in a Liquid Scintillation Counting System.

RESULTS

Sample No.	dpm $\beta\gamma$	Sample No.	dpm $\beta\gamma$
1	160	8	73
2	1800	9	115
3	600	10	87
4	230	11	74
5	90	12	85
6	126	13	22
7	58		

2. The entrance to the room was prohibited.

PERMANENT ACTION TAKEN:

1. The refrigerator was decontaminated using a mild solution of HCl. The liquid was treated as radioactive liquid waste.
2. A larger number of smears were taken in adjacent rooms and offices.

No. of smears	Max. Remov. Cont. By
40	160 dpm

The area with 160 dpm removable contamination was cleaned.

3. All items bearing a "Radioactive" label or suspected to be contaminated were removed from the area.

From the radiation standpoint no further corrective action is necessary, provided that no other radioisotopes are introduced in this area.

No persons were contaminated or directly exposed to radiation levels considered dangerous to health.

REPORT STATUS:

This must be considered the final report related to this incident. A preliminary report was made by telephone to Mr. Richard L. Woodruff, US NRC, Atlanta, Georgia, and to Mr. Jose V Perez Bobonis from the radiological Health program of the P.R. Department of Health.

SURVEY AND REPORT BY: Ms. Nimia E. Irizarry
Head, Health & Safety Division
CEER, Mayaguez

* The surveyor is the Health Physicist for the Center for Energy and Environment Research of the University of Puerto Rico and, at the time of the report, has no supervisory responsibility on the rest of the University's facilities.

cc: Mr. Jose V Perez Bobonis
Instituto Laboratorio de Salud
Programa Salud Radiologica
Bo. Monacillos, Puerto Rico 00918



52-10510-02
UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
230 PEACHTREE STREET, N.W. SUITE 1217
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

files

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NOTE TO: DOCKET FILES, University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez
University of Puerto Rico, College of Medicine at San Juan

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF MATERIALS UNDER USDOE TO NRC AT THE PUERTO
RICO NUCLEAR CENTER (PRNC)

On November 16, 1977, during a discussion with Nimia Irivarrry, R.S.O.,
at the Mayaguez Facility, the following was discussed:

1. The Mayaguez facility is in the process of decontamination activities so that many facilities can be released for unrestricted use.
2. The center plans to apply for an NRC license through Puerto Rico University at Mayaguez, for the following materials.

1 each 10 KW Reactor
1 " 9000 ci. co-60 irradiator source
1 " 500 ci. co-60 source
1 " Neutron generator

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Transfer of Materials under
USDOE to NRC at the Puerto
Rico Nuclear Center (PRNC)

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3. These applications are scheduled to be in by February 1978.
(Broad)

4. They had current Licensing guides.

Also during a meeting with Jorge Chiriboga, Environmental Health, Director, on Friday, November 18, 1977, the licensing of the San Juan ERDA (DOE) facilities was discussed. I suggested to him that the medical facilities would most likely be Licensed under the College of Medicine, U of P.R., and the other Research facilities could be put either under an Institutional License or specifically under a P.R. Department.

The recent carbon-14, spill at the PRNC Marine Laboratory, was also discussed. Ms. Irivarry related that no personnel exposure resulted and that lab had been cleaned up. She did not know how the material was brought into lab. A full report to us may not follow because the facility was under DOE (ERDA) at the time. The material spilled was

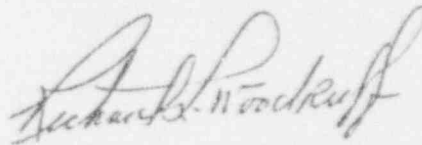
Transfer of Materials under

USDOE to NRC at the Puerto

Rico Nuclear Center (PRNC)

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NaCO_3 labeled with C-14. The area was decontaminated, resurveyed, and 40 smears were counted in Liquid Scintillation counter. About 0.5 mCi of C-14 was recovered and stored at center.



R. L. Woodruff, Radiation Specialist