

APR 18 1958

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Division of Inspection
USAEC, Washington, D. C.
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Hanford Operations Office

NONCOMPLIANCE INSPECTION REPORT - 10-CFR-40 - WAH CHANG CORPORATION,
ALBANY, OREGON - LICENSE NO. C-3966

IS:RTW

Four copies of the subject noncompliance inspection report are forwarded in accordance with AEC Manual Chapter O705.

The inspection revealed the following items of noncompliance:

1. No surveys of airborne radiation have been conducted as required by 20.201.
2. A room containing the bulk of the licensee's thorium oxide is not posted as required by 20.203(b).
3. The room in which the six electric induction furnaces are located is not posted as required in 20.203(e)(2).
4. Four furnaces containing approximately 160 pounds of ThO_2 each are not posted as required in 20.203(f)(2).

Although this firm has been using ThO_2 since July 1957, they have not made too much progress relative to radiation safety. The plant is not adequately posted. When plant management was questioned about the health hazards of airborne carbon-monoxide and ThO_2 they replied that they usually operated with the doors open.

The items of noncompliance were discussed with the licensee and he stated he would take immediate action to have the deficiencies corrected. Since this firm's usage of ThO_2 is unique, there is no basis for evaluating the airborne radiation status although it does not seem probable that a hazardous concentration of ThO_2 could accumulate in the air. Large doors at one end of the building will be left open until lines are installed that will enable the furnaces to be vented to atmosphere.

Because a probable health hazard is involved, a follow-up inspection is recommended.

AIR MAIL

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Since the licensee plans to correct these deficiencies within a month of the inspection date, it is recommended that a letter be written by Licensing and Regulations confirming the action to be taken.

Enclosure:
Insp Rpt

