

February 11, 1994

Docket No. 030-31282
License No. 07-11871-05
CAL No. 1-94-001

Delaware State University
ATTN: Ms. Julia Phelps
Vice President
1200 N. DuPont Highway
Dover, Delaware 19901

Dear Ms. Phelps:

SUBJECT: THEFT OF TRITIUM EXIT SIGNS

On February 10, 1994, Mr. Michael Freda, EDIS, a building contractor for Delaware State University, reported to NRC Region I the theft of exit signs from New Resident Hall at Delaware State University.

The signs contain radioactive material (tritium) and are generally licensed by the NRC. During the period of September 19, 1993 to February 10, 1994, over fifty-four signs were stolen. Each sign contains approximately twenty curies of tritium. A building contractor installed the signs in July 1993. The contractor told the NRC that he was asked to replace the stolen signs and, upon contacting the sign vendor, the contractor was informed that the signs contain radioactive material that is generally licensed by the NRC. The contractor informed the NRC and the licensee of the stolen signs.

Pursuant to a telephone conversation between Dr. Mohamed Shanbaky of this office and yourself on February 10, 1994, it is our understanding that you have taken or will take the following actions:

1. Immediately initiate a thorough investigation to locate the radioactive exit signs.
2. Immediately initiate a general search for the signs at all potential locations that may include student housing. This initial comprehensive search will be completed by the end of the business day on February 14, 1994.
3. An information notification, with adequate circulation throughout the University community, will be issued by February 14, 1994. The notification will include a description of the signs with a picture and the potential radiological hazards associated with the breakage of these tritium luminated signs.

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4. In accordance with 10 CFR 31.2 and 10 CFR 20.2201 a written report will be submitted to the NRC Region I within 30 days from your initial telephone notification of this event. All substantive information that may include the recovery of the signs, any additional loss or theft and all actions taken to prevent future loss or theft of these signs should be addressed in your written report to the NRC.

We emphasize the importance of the licensee's responsibilities and the requirements of 10 CFR 31.2 to ensure proper use and security of generally licensed radioactive materials.

Further, we understand that all actions established by this letter will be adhered to and will not be changed unless you receive authorization from the Regional Administrator, NRC Region I.

The response directed by this letter is not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511. In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790, a copy of this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Issuance of this Confirmatory Action Letter does not preclude the issuance of an Order formalizing the above commitments. If your understanding differs from that set forth above, please call me immediately.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
Charles W. Hehl

Charles W. Hehl, Director
Division of Radiation Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosures:
10 CFR Part 20 and 31

cc w/o encls:
Public Document Room (PDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
State of Delaware

bcc:
 RI Docket Room (w/concurrences)
 H. L. Thompson, DEEDS
 T. T. Martin, RI
 W. F. Kane, RI
 C. J. Paperiello, NMSS
 J. Lieberman, OE
 M. F. Weber, RI
 S. H. Lewis, OGC
 J. E. Glenn, NMSS
 R. R. Bellamy, RI
 K. D. Smith, RI
 D. J. Holody, RI
 M. M. Shanbaky, RI
 S. R. Courtemanche, RI

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