

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I

Report Nos. 030-18930/90-001
030-22107/90-001

Docket Nos. 030-18930
030-22107

License Nos. 29-19591-01 Priority E1 Category 3
29-19591-02

Licensee: General Foods Corporation
Technical Center
Prospect Road
Cranbury, New Jersey 08512

Facility Name: General Foods Corporation
Technical Center

Inspection At: General Foods Corporation
Technical Center, Prospect Road
Cranbury, New Jersey 08512

Type of Inspection: Special Close-out Survey

Inspector: Richard H. Ladun, Health Physicist

8/2/90
date signed

Approved by: John D. Kinneman, Chief
Nuclear Materials Safety Section B

8/2/90
date signed

Inspection Summary: Inspection conducted on June 28, 1990 (Report Nos. 030-18930/90-001 and 030-22107/90-001)

Areas Inspected: Special, announced closeout inspection of a facility formerly housing a research and development operation. The inspection was conducted in areas specified by the licensee to have contained licensed material, wastes, and instrumentation and equipment used to conduct experiments. Independent measurements for radiation levels and removable contamination were made in these areas. The inspection involved 3 inspection hours on-site.

Results: No violations were identified. No radiation levels above background or removable contamination were identified. The licensee's surveys contained in his letter dated January 15, 1990, accurately reflects the condition of the area surveyed.

DETAILS

1. Persons Contacted

W. McGlone, Engineering Services Supervisor, Rhone-Poulenc

2. Background

General Foods (GF) operated a small research and development facility housed in two buildings. Licensed material was used for radiochemical tracer studies in such areas as metabolism, nutrition, food science, and analytical chemistry. The operation involved microcurie quantities of Carbon-14, Tritium, Iodine-125 (RIA Kits) Chromium-51, and Iron-55. Also, Building H of the facility, housed an AECL Gammacell 220 irradiator which contained approximately 16,000 curies of cobalt-60 which was used infrequently in food research. In 1990 the entire facility was sold to the Rhone-Poulenc Company which did not wish to maintain the licenses. Consequently GF disposed of all radioactive isotopes, including wastes. The item of noncompliance identified during a January 11, 1988 previous inspection by the NRC is considered corrected and closed.

The licensee, in a letter dated January 15, 1990 advised that a closeout survey had been performed and that the facility was free of radioactive contamination. The licensee also advised that all isotopes and related wastes had been disposed of according to NRC regulation.

3. Decontamination and Survey Plan

The inspector reviewed Certificate of Disposition for material License Nos. 29-19591-01 and 29-19591-02 dated January 11, 1990 submitted by the licensee. These records and others reflects that all radioactive materials and wastes have been disposed of by NDL Organization, Inc. (NDL) and that NDL had decontaminated all use/storage areas associated with NRC License No. 29-19591-01. Shipping records indicated that the Nordion Gamma Cell GC-220 which was operated under License No. 29-19591-02 had been returned to Nordion International, Inc for disposition.

4. Observations and Measurements

The inspector observed that General Foods Corporation Technical Center contained no apparent radioactive materials or wastes. The inspector using a Ludlum Model 14C end window survey meter (calibrated September 26, 1989) with an end window GM probe, sensitive to beta and gamma radiation, made approximately 60 separate measurements in former isotope use and storage areas. Also, approximately 10 measurements were made in unrestricted areas such as hall ways and laboratories where isotopes were not supposedly used or stored. These measurements were made with a Ludlum Model 12S Micro R Meter sensitive to gamma radiation. No radiation levels above instrument background were identified. In addition several wipes were taken at random locations in designated use and storage areas. Six wipes were taken in unrestricted areas (hallways).

These independent measurements were analyzed in the NRC Region I laboratory on a germanium detector and a multichannel analyzer. The wipes were also counted in a packard liquid scintillation counter and were in agreement with the results contained in the licensee's closeout survey report. Specifically, all radiological measurements were within NRC's guidelines for release of facilities and equipment for unrestricted use.

5. Exit Interview

The inspector summarized the scope and purpose of the inspection with the individual identified in paragraph 1.