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BR. JAMES D. LAFLEUR, JR.  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS  
U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATION

THIS REFERS TO YOUR CABLE OF SEPT 20, 1984.

1. THE PRODUCTS SOLD BY TAI-YANG CO. TO SHORT LINE LTD AS MENTIONED IN OUR PREVIOUS CABLE TO MR. SUNG HAVE EXPORT DATES FEB 11 AND MARCH 1 RESPECTIVELY. AFTER TAI-YANG FURTHER INVESTIGATED THEIR DELIVERY BILL AND PRODUCTION RECORD, THE PRODUCTS (21 ITEMS, ABOUT 9 TONS) SHIPPED ON THE DATES INDICATED ABOVE WERE IDENTIFIED AS MANUFACTURED DURING THE PERIOD JAN 27 - FEB 8. SINCE THE MELTING FURNACE AT TAI-YANG HAS SMALL CAPACITY (ABOUT 750 KG) BUT WITH CONSIDERABLY LARGE VOLUME OF FLOW, THEREFORE, THE DILUTING RATE OF RADIATION CONTAMINATION IS FAST, AND HENCE CONTAMINATED PRODUCTS AMONG THESE 9 TONS SHOULD BE RELATIVELY FEW.

2. ANALYSIS MADE BY THIS COUNCIL FOR SAMPLES FROM ITEMS MANUFACTURED BEFORE JAN 27 AND HALF A YEAR AFTER FEB 8 HAS FOUND NO CONTAMINATION. FROM THIS IT CAN BE SAID THAT THE CONTAMINATION PROBLEM OCCURRED ONLY WITH PRODUCTS MANUFACTURED BETWEEN JAN 27 AND FEB 8, 1983.

BEST REGARDS  
YU HAO LEE  
SECRETARY GENERAL

AEC/BOC

9/24/84

NRC BHD WSH

GGWYPJUSINDATOM

DDDDDD

Time: 01:20 09/24/84 ???

Connect Time : 289 seconds

9404120233 930629  
PDR FOIA  
KAWATA93-203 PDR

Rcv: @2IM/2.03080 Line: 2A

NRC BHD WSH

ATTACHMENT C

ANALYTICAL LABORATORY RESULTS FROM U. S.

AND

TAIWAN ANALYSES OF CONTAMINATED

PIPE FITTINGS

## Memorandum

To : Don Honey  
Radiologic Health Branch, Sacramento

VIA : B. R. Tarplin, Ph.D., Chief <sup>5/12</sup>  
Sanitation & Radiation Laboratory Section

From : George Uyesugi  
Research Radiochemist  
Sanitation & Radiation Laboratory Section

Date : September 11, 1984

Subject:

20 pieces each--coupling nuts and 1 inch "T" joint pipe fittings--were delivered by Federal Express on September 1, 1984. Except for 1 coupling nut which was in a plastic bag and marked "4 x 2Kg", others were loosely packed in a carton box. There were no sampling slips or other identifying information. Each nut and "T" were numbered 1 through 20. Each piece was monitored with a survey meter before counted on two Ge(Li) gamma spectrometers. The nuts were counted flat side down and the "Ts" numbered side up. Sample No. 2 was also counted numbered side down and is marked with an 'x'.

Although the activity appeared to be uniform, because of the difference in geometry, the reported values of the "T" are on the conservative side. All pieces were contaminated with Co-60 and 1.332 MeV photopeak was used in reporting the results. Co-60 counting efficiencies for Ge(Li) #1 and #2 at 1.332 MeV are 0.96% and 1.95%, respectively. The geometry of the calibrated standards is a 2" diameter by 1/4" thick plastic petri dish filled with Drierite (anhydrite calcium sulfate, density 2.96) and radionuclide standards added.

Ge(Li) Detector (pCi/ea)

<u>Sample No.</u>	<u>Coupling nut (ctg time)</u>	<u>"T" joint (ctg time)</u>
1	20210 ± 380 (15 min)	267 ± 51 (15 min)
	20780 ± 225 (40 min)	
-	1062 ± 36 (70 min)	314 ± 24 (70 min)
		33 ± 33* (70 min)
7-18 (batch)	1094 ± 33 (100 min)	
7-8 "		1571 ± 56 (100 min)
9-14 "		1415 ± 32 (100 min)
15-20 "		943 ± 35 (100 min)

Each piece was subsequently counted for 30 minutes on a 4" x 4" NaI(Tl) detector connected to a ND-65 multi-channel analyzer. 1.332 MeV photopeak was bracketed between 2 markers and the net peak counts were determined by subtracting the Compton tail (including background) from the total counts. The counting efficiency of Co-60 at 1.332 MeV was 0.22%.

4" x 4" NaI(Tl) Detector (pCi, ea)

<u>Sample No.</u>	<u>Coupling out</u>	<u>"T" joint</u>
1	20430 ± 340	266 ± 24
2	1171 ± 31	522 ± 33
		547 ± 34*
3	553 ± 37	419 ± 33
		473 ± 34*
4	740 ± 35	549 ± 33
5	552 ± 38	173 ± 24
6	263 ± 24	146 ± 22
7	54 ± 22	303 ± 24
8	1100 ± 13	315 ± 24
9	145 ± 21	202 ± 23
10	210 ± 24	322 ± 27
11	868 ± 43	464 ± 35
12	137 ± 21	189 ± 32
13	119 ± 22	200 ± 19
14	1028 ± 46	193 ± 27
15	176 ± 26	256 ± 31
16	909 ± 43	162 ± 32
17	717 ± 36	201 ± 18
18	1010 ± 41	314 ± 33
19	667 ± 35	277 ± 37
20	287 ± 11	566 ± 32

Western American Manufacturing, Inc.  
Investigation #082984

On August 29, 1984, Don Honey (Head, RHB) called our office to report the discovery in San Diego of a plumbing tee (1" equal) that contained an estimated 0.2 to 0.5 microcuries of Co-60. This was determined by Frank Bold of Gulf Atomic. The tee had been purchased from a Handiman Store in Solano Beach. Handiman had obtained the tee from Western American Manufacturing Inc. (WAMI) located at 25395 Rye Canyon, Valencia, California 91355.

Jim Rowles called WAMI and talked with Mr. Gene Mayfield (Vice President and General Manager) and set an appointment for 8:00 a.m., August 30, 1984. The problem was described to Mr. Mayfield.

Mr. Rowles arrived at 8:00 a.m. on August 30, 1984 and met with Mr. Mayfield who introduced Mr. S.Y. Hong, their international representative. Mr. Hong produced a telex from Coin Brand, Taiwan, the manufacturer (copy attached). Mr. Mayfield described WAMI's operation as that of a major wholesaler to distributors throughout the United States. WAMI distributes black pipe, galvanized pipe, clean iron pipe and plastic pipe up to 2 inches. They also package and number the fittings to customer specifications.

The building WAMI occupies is a square shell about 300 feet on a side and 30 feet high. Offices are on a second floor. The main floor is partitioned into several functional areas; metal fittings (parts), plastic fittings (parts), packaged parts such as faucet kits, toilet kits, etc., a packaging area where items and orders are shrink wrapped and/or boxed and a machine shop area where pipe is cut and threaded. Pipe storage is outside. A sign with the name Conart Products, Inc. is displayed on the south and west sides of the building.

Mr. Rowles used a Eberline Rascal (#267) with a SPA-3 NAI Scintillation probe set to accept photon energies from 900 keV to 1120 keV. The complete building and grounds were surveyed by walking slowly along aisles and piles of material and pointing the probe towards boxes at about 1 foot distance. The speaker was "on" and the selector switch was set on fast rate mode (D) to obtain cpm rates. The probe was held at a distance of about one foot from the boxes for several seconds. The only items that read above background (120-140 cpm) by a factor of two or more were one pallet of 23 boxes (100 each) of 1" pipe tees of galvanized iron and a box (320 items) and a half (13 1/2 left of 100 items) of 1 1/4" pipe locknuts (backnuts). The boxes were individually moved about one meter from each other/pallet in an isolated area and counted for one minute. The probe end was held in contact with the surface of the top and each of the four sides. Results are attached. The 23 boxes of tees (top counts only) had a gross count range from 216 cpm to 474 cpm with the average being 348 cpm and a standard deviation of 86 cpm. The full box of 320 locknuts counted 2286 cpm gross. The Rascal gives 50 cpm net for 1.0 microroentgen per hour.

The boxes were all placed on the pallet and Mr. Mayfield was instructed to isolate and secure these items until released by our office. The radioactivity appeared below the levels requiring placarding so this was not required of Mr. Mayfield. A letter (copy attached) from Al Ferguson to Mr. Mayfield documented the segregation and hold order.

Mr. Mayfield could not date the receipt of the tees. He felt they could be 2-3 years old since they were so dusty. He pointed out that an employee fills an order by taking items from stock that is handy. He said they have no way of referencing which customer received parts from a given purchase order or batch of stocked items. Mr. Mayfield said the number of the tee (1591-1727) from the Handiman Store is from a discontinued system. Thus, the tee found by GA had to be at least 6-8 weeks old.

Mr. S.Y. Hong pointed out that one order from Coin Brand (WAMI 1034-1) which was received in March 1984 identified 320 locknuts by the number 1092. This number was found stamped on the box of 320 locknuts. This same order shows 2300 one inch tees (banded, equal) but all 2300 tees were found. This suggested that the radioactive tee found by GA came from a different box or lot. See attached copies of 2 orders in 1984.

Mr. Mayfield said they sell many tees (thousands per month) but few locknuts (tens per year). He also said they ship all over the U.S. and would have to go through individual invoices to establish who got 1" tees or 1/2" locknuts. Mr. Mayfield said he would get Mr. Hong to supply the information on these boxes to the Coin Brand representative, Mr. Rocky F.C. Lui, Speedo Co., Ltd. Hao Ran Mansion, 4th floor, #10, Lane 180, Kuong Fu South Road, Taipei, Taiwan. This would help Coin establish the source of radioactivity.

On September 4, 1984, Mr. Mayfield was contacted and said that Coin Brand had matched the box numbers of the tees to an order which was received by WAMI on March 2, 1983. Jim Rowles asked Mr. Mayfield how many tees were in that order. Mr. Mayfield said he would have to call back.

Don Honey (California, RHB-Sacramento) had wanted 20 tees and 20 locknuts for their lab to analyse. On August 30, 1984, Jim Rowles obtained 21 tees from box 262 (a poor choice) and 21 locknuts from box 1092. The additional one of each was for LACDHS use. Mr. Rowles had viewed the boxes of tees to have sufficiently uniform count rates to sample from the single open box rather than open 19 boxes to take one out of each.

Before the samples were shipped to Sacramento on August 31, 1984 at 3:00 p.m. Jim Rowles counted each tee and locknut for one minute in contact with the face of the SPA-3 probe. Only one locknut counted above twice background, which was at 5x background. This locknut was bagged separately with the others sent to Sacramento. See attached list of gross counts.

After return to the office, Jim Rowles calibrated the Rascal against a Co-60 standard and determined, for the setting used, that the instrument produced 50 cpm net for each 1.0 microcentgens per hour. It was also determined that Mr. Rowles had used the instrument off the Co-60 peaks. See attached.

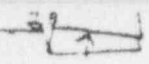
On September 4, 1984, Don Honey, Al Ferguson and Jim Rowles discussed the incident. On September 4, 1984, NRC, Region V people (Jack Horner and Bob Thomas) called Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Rowles and also discussed the incident.

On September 6, 1984, Don Honey called and identified the manufacturer of the tees and locknuts as a Tai Yang Company. Mr. Honey stated the batch of contaminated tees and locknuts were made in January/February 1983 and shipped to Cohart, the sole U.S. customer, in February/March 1983 (the tees) and April 1984 (the locknuts).

On September 6, 1984, Jim Rowles called WAMI and talked with Mr. Mayfield and Mr. Wong. They tied the two shipments of the 1000-series and 200-series tees to two April 1983 received orders. One shipment had 2400 tees and one shipment had 3800 tees. Mr. Hong stated that WAMI sells about 3500 tees a month so they are long gone. Mr. Mayfield stated that the three largest customers by a wide margin are ACE, COTLER and National Lumber.

Mr. Hong said he received over 8 calls from Taiwan from the scared people there. He was relieved to hear that the Taiwan Atomic Bureau had checked the whole plant and a mountain of scrap and did not find anything. But the people there are very scared.

Probe pointed towards box  
1 min Counts at outlet

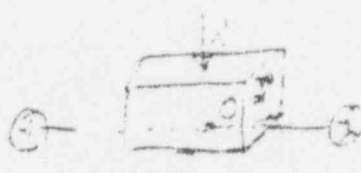


Box #	Top	Side 1	Side 2	Side 3	Side 4
1048	440	368	330	361	363
1054	430	316	330	376	348
264	303	245	221	264	246
1039	417	349	380	380	314
1050	466	370	354	355	340
259	251	254	268	248	229
261	273	232	269	276	288
276	229	258	220	241	244
266	256	251	230	266	250
1043	419	351	359	374	362
1045	423	316	356	471	312
1053	474	271	314	328	369
269	350	253	235	256	278
1051	408	375	344	249	340
281	216	212	275	231	231
263	237	246	233	261	240
265	269	259	225	226	227
262	225	259	266	232	215
258	368	354	334	352	247
1047	417	399	456	386	308
1052	391	351	352	373	364
260	357	314	240	316	395
1040	388	372	346	386	345

Backside

Box 1012	1112	1084	1165	1009	1030
Box 1092	2186	2218	2246	2185	2550

Fig 131/134  
No. 52.5



10" high 22" long 14" wide  
8/20/84




1 min Count Gross @ Contact

1 min Count Gross @ Contact

Count	1 min Count Gross @ Contact	TEE	Count	1 min Count Gross @ Contact
1	305	1	1	250
2	1142	2	2	205
3	290	3	3	261
4	239	4	4	239
5	264	5	5	229
6	303	6	6	291
7	304	7	7	254
8	285	8	8	276
9	282	9	9	270
10	269	10	10	248
11	297	11	11	254
12	253	12	12	252
13	325	13	13	251
14	285	14	14	272
15	250	15	15	261
16	252	16	16	303
17	276	17	17	303
18	252	18	18	297
19	244	19	19	266
20	257	20	20	264
21	268	21	21	249

1st 241/245/239/273

2nd 231/246/261/242/235

 8/31/84

Using a PORT+ dose calibrator Co-60 source  
 27" air the barrel + PORT+3 will detect  
 50 cpm / microrentgen/hr.

CABLE ADDRESS: SINGATOM TAIPEI  
TELEX 26554

行政院原子能委員會  
ATOMIC ENERGY COUNCIL, EXECUTIVE YUAN

67, LANE 144  
KEELUNG ROAD, SECTION 4  
TAIPEI TAIWAN, 107  
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. Yu Sung  
Director  
Science Division  
CCNAA

September 8, 1984

Dear Mr. Sung:

On September 4 and 5 we collected then suspected samples, selected by preliminary surveymeter measurements, with production dates spanning January 27 - February 8, 1983, for analysis by National Laboratory. As indicated by an analysis report coming out of the laboratory on September 5, no surface contamination was found of all the samples. Four samples have been found clean by surveymeter at the plant and confirmed so in the lab. However, six of the samples showed trace content of radiation which as determined by analysis is of Co-60, with one of the samples showing a maximum surface dose rate of 0.104 mrad/hr. For detail please see attached sheet.

We are exploring the origin of the source material from which the samples were produced and will keep you informed of any further information.

Please let me know about the actions NRC is taking concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

*Yu Hao Lee*  
Yu Hao Lee  
Secretary General

<u>Sample No.</u>	<u>Sample Collected From</u>	<u>Sample Specification</u>	<u>Radioactive Nuclei</u>	<u>Activity (uCi)</u>	<u>Sample dose rate (mrad/hr)</u>
1	Taiwan Speco Co.	TEE 1-1/4" (500g)		LLD	0.026 <sup>±</sup> 0.026
2	Tai Yang Co.	CROSS 3/4" (275g)		LLD	0.026 <sup>±</sup> 0.026
3	Tai Yang Co.	SOCKET 3/4" (110g)	<sup>60</sup> Co	1.67x10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.104 <sup>±</sup> 0.026
4	Y-Sheng Co.	SOCKET 3/4" (110g)	<sup>60</sup> Co	1.68x10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.087 <sup>±</sup> 0.026
5	Y-Sheng Co.	SOCKET 3/4" (110g)	<sup>60</sup> Co	1.58x10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.087 <sup>±</sup> 0.026
6	Y-Sheng Co.	BRS 3/4"x1/2" (111g)	<sup>60</sup> Co	1.98x10 <sup>-4</sup>	0.026 <sup>±</sup> 0.026
7	Y-Sheng Co.	UNION 1/2" (195g)	<sup>60</sup> Co	1.91x10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.104 <sup>±</sup> 0.026
8	Y-Sheng Co.	SOCKET 3/4" (110g)		LLD	0.026 <sup>±</sup> 0.026
9	Y-Sheng Co.	TEE 1" (310g)		LLD	0.026 <sup>±</sup> 0.026
10	Y-Sheng Co.	BRS 2-1/2"x1-1/2" (870g)	<sup>60</sup> Co	3.54x10 <sup>-3</sup>	0.026 <sup>±</sup> 0.026

Note: 1. LLD =  $5.08 \times 10^{-5}$  uCi

2. Background =  $0.026 \pm 0.026$  mrad/hr

ATTACHMENT D

NOTES ON EVENTS DURING INCIDENT



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

AUG 31 1984

Note to John G. Davis  
Donald B. Mausshardt

SUBJECT: STEEL CONTAMINATION WITH COBALT-60 IMPORTED FROM TAIWAN;  
PRELIMINARY NOTES ON FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

A PN from Region V is to address what is presently known about very low-level cobalt-60 contamination in plumbing fixtures imported from Taiwan.

On August 31 a conference call was held with participants from NMSS, IE, Region V, IP, SP, PA and EDO. The following actions were agreed upon.

1. Region V to prepare the PN which in addition to reporting the facts will compare the level of contamination in the steel products to NRC decontamination criteria for facilities and equipment. PN to be sent to the Commission on August 31.
2. IP to notify the Taiwanese of the contamination with two objectives:
  - a. Point out that they might have a more severe radiological hazard in their manufacturing plants, and
  - b. To begin looking for the source of contamination and the scope of contamination problem.

Taiwanese contact to be made by August 31.

3. Region V to participate with the State of California in analysis of samples to assure timely results and appropriate analysis. If the California efforts are not sufficient, Region V to obtain an independent analysis (perhaps at Livermore).
4. Region V to join the State of California in determining from the importer the scope of distribution of products that are potentially contaminated.
5. NMSS to notify Customs at Washington office of what has transpired.
6. IE, through emergency response system, to notify DOE, FEMA, EPA, HHS, and Commissioners' assistants of what has happened.

9309130296

John G. Davis  
Donald B. Mausshardt

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AUG 31 1984

7. IP to notify State Department.
8. To date, no press release by California has been issued, nor to our knowledge any inquiry from the press. Obtained agreement from all parties that inquiries from the press will be referred to PA who would respond and seek assistance from technical staff, as necessary.
9. Bill Thompson to be designated Project Manager for NMSS to compile records of the incident. NMSS volunteered to prepare the report, however, IE apparently has some problem with that. The issue has yet to be settled. However, FC is proceeding on the assumption that we will prepare the report.

*REC*

Richard E. Cunningham

cc: R. G. Page  
~~L. W.~~ T. Thompson  
R. Wilde



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

AUG 31 1984

Note to: Files

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH TOM WYNKOWSKI, U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE  
(PHONE NUMBER 566-5354)

I phoned Tom Wynkowski at about 2:00 p.m. on August 31, 1984 to inform him of the most recent Co-60 contamination incident involving pipe fittings apparently imported from Taiwan. I explained to Mr. Wynkowski that the radiation measured on the pipe fittings was very low, perhaps 3-4 times background radiation levels, and in no way presented any hazard to the public. I told him that the detected contamination raises a question, however, of whether other products are contaminated at possibly higher levels.

I gave Mr. Wynkowski the facts as we presently have them concerning how the contamination was detected by G.A. and the tracing of the contaminated pipe fittings to imported items from Taiwan. I explained that the NRC and the State of California are working closely together in this matter and the NRC is about to notify the Department of State and intend to contact Taiwan government authorities to obtain available information concerning whether other contaminated products may have been sent to the U.S. and if so, what levels of contamination may possibly be present in them.

I informed Mr. Wynkowski that the NRC has not notified the local customs people in California and suggested that he provide such notification if he believed the Regional Customs Office should be informed. Mr. Wynkowski did not indicate whether he planned to notify them or not.

Mr. Wynkowski thanked me for the call and asked us to keep him informed of developments. I told him that we would do so.

  
R. G. Page

cc: Mr. Cunningham  
Mr. Thompson ✓

9309130315

FIXED COBALT-60 CONTAMINATED PLUMBING FITTINGS  
STATUS REPORT AS OF SEPTEMBER 6, 1984

1. International Programs (IP)

IP has been in contact with the Taiwan government. In addition to the pipe fittings found in California, IP reported that another customer SLP (Short Line Products) Inc., Sharon, Mass. orders pipe fittings from the same exporter in Taiwan that are exported directly to SLP customers. SLP does not maintain any stock of fittings except for 3 pieces for show that were not contaminated; they are a sales office. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts sent personnel to SLP to gather invoice information to determine the whereabouts of the fittings and follow up with surveys. They found only invoice numbers; other records (with names) are kept by customers and Speco of Taiwan. Also, the Mass. Co. does very little business with Taiwan. Because of the low probability of significant contamination, R I is not going to pursue the matter any further unless they can get customer names. IP stated that Taiwan is still investigating the situation. As of this date the origin is not known of the Co-60 or what foundries in Taiwan are involved. (See attached telex from Taiwan to IP.)

2. Laboratory Analysis of Pipe Fittings in California.

Analysis of 20 pieces of fittings obtained from the California distributor indicated a maximum of 0.08 mR/hr of Co-60 on one 350 gram fitting ("T") or about one nanocurie/gram. The remaining 19 pieces had about 1/5 as much as the "T". (The 20 pieces were taken from one box out of 23 boxes at Western American Manufacturer - all boxes were unopened).

3. Radioactivity Limits.

So far, the fittings surveyed are releasable for unrestricted use. NMSS has established a release limit of 0.2 mR/hr. However, because the fittings may be installed in remote locations or the unlikeliness of persons being exposed to significant amounts of radiation, each case will be treated on a case-by-case basis. The 0.2 mR/hr limit is, at present, a theoretical number and the limit could be raised in an individual case.



4. Time of Exports.

It was learned on 9/5/84 that the fittings were shipped to California in February - March, 1983. SLP has ordered few fittings.

5. California.

The licensee that returned a "T" to the hardware store in California reading 0.05 - 0.07 mR/hr, surveyed the other fittings imported from Taiwan. No contamination was detected. This, coupled with the lab analysis of 20 other pieces, has led California to believe there is no health and safety problem. According to Region V, California is not very anxious about surveying fittings at customers facilities. The Region volunteered but California said no. It was their area of jurisdiction.

6. Contacts.

The office of Public Affairs, State Programs, NMSS, and the involved Regions have been kept informed.



- Western American Manufacturing identified their supplier as Taiwan Speco Co., Ltd., Taipei, Taiwan., (first identified as Taiyang, Ltd.; but Taiyang was the manufacturer, Speco was the exporter).
- Region V reported the incident to Headquarters.
- Incident noted on Region V morning report (computer print out) for August 31.
- Conference call with Region V, IE, NMSS, SP, PA and IP to obtain latest information.
- Lafleur notified the Taiwanese Coordinating Council for North American Affairs (Taiwan has no embassy) who sent a cable to Taiwan about the incident.
- R. G. Page notified U. S. Customs of the incident.
- Duty Officer at Operations Center notified Commissioners' Assistants, plus DOE, FEMA, EPA and HHS.

September 4, 1984 - IE reported that analyses of 40 samples showed one pipe fitting with a concentration of 0.23 nanocuries per gram; all others were lower. Confirmed that the contaminant was cobalt-60.

- Cunningham talked with Scarano (Region V) and learned that 23 boxes of fittings had been embargoed at Western American Manufacturing and that the fittings were 1-inch tees and lock nuts (pipe unions). One more box of 100 fittings apparently had been sold.

September 5, 1984 - Lafleur identified the manufacturer as Taiwan Industrial Co., and their exporting subsidiary as Taiwan Speco Company, Ltd. Only one other shipment to the U. S. was made to

Short Line Products, Ltd.  
 128 Tond Street  
 Sharon, Massachusetts 02067

Shipments took place in February and March of 1984.

FFICS > .....

FNAME > .....

DATE > .....

SEP 12 1984

John G. Davis

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- Region I located importing company under new name and address:

SLP Inc.  
#12-B Pond Street  
Sharon, Massachusetts Telephone (617) 784-9699.

Company is only a sales office. Shipments are made directly to customers. SLP has no warehouse or stock on hand.

- IE reported that shipments of contaminated pipe fittings from Taiwan were made in February-March 1983, not 1984 as originally reported.

September 6, 1984 - IP received telegram from Taiwan stating that contaminated fittings are 1-inch tees and lock nuts manufactured in January and February 1983. Inspections at the plant and warehouses in Taiwan discovered a few hundred slightly contaminated pieces made in January-February 1983. Stocks of products made after January-February 1983 show no trace of contamination.

- California Radiation Control Program had agreed to trace purchasers of contaminated fittings imported by Western American Manufacturing, with Region V closely following progress. Upon looking into this matter further, California did not believe the level of contamination justified the effort that would be required to locate purchasers and check every fitting that was purchased. Also, they objected to Region V doing the checking. Discussions between Region V and the State continuing.
- Region I tried to trace purchasers of possibly contaminated fittings imported from Taiwan by SLP Inc. However, SLP had no records of who the pipe fittings were to be delivered to. Region I and the State of Massachusetts believed no further action indicated.

FFICE >

RNAME >

DATE >

SEP 12 1984

John G. Davis

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- IP maintaining close contact with Taiwan to obtain information on source of contamination, dates and destinations of contaminated steel shipments, and other information which may require follow-up action.

September 7, 1984 - IP sent a cable to Taiwan requesting additional information concerning how the contamination occurred and whether additional products may have been contaminated.

Late in the day a conference call was held involving Region II, III, IV and V, NMSS, SP, and IP, which disclosed the following information:

- On further investigation at Western American Manufacturing in Valencia, California, the State inspectors found that shipments of pipe tees of the type found to be contaminated with cobalt-60 had been sent to:
  - 77 Handyman Hardware stores in four states
  - 14 National Lumber hardware stores
  - Ace Hardware distribution center, in Oakbrook, Illinois
  - S&P Industries, distributors in Louisville, Kentucky.
- Region V notified states where hardware stores are located concerning possibility of radioactive contamination in pipe fittings.
- Region III will visit the Ace Hardware distribution center at 2200 Kensington Court, Oakbrook, Illinois, to see whether they have contaminated fittings on hand. (It was found that this is only a billing office which has no stock on hand.)
- Region II will check with the S&P Industries in Louisville. (S&P reported that they had received no Taiwanese fittings since December 1983, and all fittings from the December 1983 order had been sold to hardware stores.)

FF CE >

PLANE >

DATE >

SEP 12 1984

- Region I will be asked to send inspectors to check with the importer in Sharon, Massachusetts. (They obtained names and addresses of customers to whom fittings had been shipped directly from Taiwan.)
- No radioactive fittings have been found other than the one tee originally found by GA and the 23 boxes embargoed at Western American Manufacturing.
- Len Cobb, IE, prepared another PN which was issued on Monday, September 10.

Original Signed by  
Richard E. Cunningham

Richard E. Cunningham, Director  
Division of Fuel Cycle and  
Material Safety, NMSS

DISTRIBUTION:  
 RECunningham  
 RGPPage  
 GATerry  
 WETHompson ✓  
 FCUF R/F  
 FCTA R/F  
 NMSS R/F  
 FC Central File  
 RWilde  
 DRChapell

TO	FCTA	FCTA	FCUF <i>WET</i>	FC	FC
BY	WETHompson:rf	GATerry	RGPPage	DRChapell	RECunningham
DATE	9/11/84	9/11/84	9/11/84	9/12/84	9/12/84