

APR 13 1994

Ford Motor Company
Design Center
ATTN: Robert Thacker
Section Supervisor
Fabrication Dept.
21175 Oakwood Blvd.
Dearborn, MI 48123

General License (10 CFR 31.5)

Dear Mr. Thacker:

This refers to the telephone conversation on March 2, 1994, between you and Evelyn R. Matson of my staff, in which you notified the NRC that a polonium-210 static eliminator was apparently stolen. The device, an Amersham Model PDM-1002H4, was leased from Amersham. This also refers to the telephone conversation on March 25, 1994, in which you notified us that as a result of your efforts to recover the source, the source was recovered on March 25, 1994.

Although the source was recovered, a violation of NRC requirements identified. The violation involves the unauthorized transfer of approximately 10 millicuries (370 MBq) of polonium-210, and is described in the enclosed Notice of Violation. A written response is required.

The NRC recognizes that the safety significance of this violation is minor given the small amount of material involved. Nonetheless, the violation demonstrates the importance of maintaining adequate control of all radioactive material to ensure that improper handling, disposal, or transfer does not occur. Therefore, although the violation has been classified a Severity Level IV in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C, any similar violation in the future may result in additional enforcement action, including issuance of a civil penalty.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's regulations, a copy of this letter, the enclosed Notice of Violation, and your response to this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

The response dictated by this letter and the accompanying Notice are 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.

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We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

John D. Jones, Acting Chief
Nuclear Materials Safety
Section 2

Enclosure: Notice
of Violation

bcc: PUBLIC

RIII
on 1/23
Matson/jaw
CA/DAR/4

RIII
[Signature]
Jones
CA/DAR/4

RIII
[Signature]
Canjano
4/1/94

YES
RIII
[Signature]
DeFayette
CA/WSK
4/12/94