U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I

Report No. 040-02298/90-003

Docket No. 040-02298

License No. SUB-778 Priority 3 Category E Program Code 123192

Licensee: Sprague Electric Company
87 Marshall Street
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247

Inspection At: 1476 Massachusetts Avenue
North Adams, Massachusetts

Inspection Conducted: October 15, 1990

Inspector: Eric A. Reber
Eric A. Reber, Health Physicist — date 11/1/90

Approved by: for Francis M. Costello
John D. Kinneman, Chief
Nuclear Materials Safety Section B — date 11/2/90

Inspection Summary: Closeout Inspection on October 15, 1990 (Inspection No. 040-02298/90-003).

Areas Inspected: Announced, closeout inspection limited to survey of a warehouse for residual contamination prior to release of the facility for unrestricted use. Ten wipes were taken to determine removable contamination levels and 82 measurements of ambient radiation levels were made with a sodium iodide detector. The warehouse was monitored with a sodium iodide detector and a geiger counter.

Results: No violations were identified. No fixed or removable radioactive contamination was found. No remaining radioactive material was found.

DETAILS

1. Persons Contacted

Mario A. Vigliani, Principal, Applied Consultants, Inc. (A consultant to Sprague Technologies, Incorporated)

2. Background

Sprague Technologies, Incorporated (Sprague) used uranium powder to manufacture capacitors at 87 Marshall Street, North Adams, Massachusetts. This process was discontinued in the later 1980's. The site was decontaminated and approximately 1300 drums containing uranium-contaminated soil were generated. A warehouse at 1476 Massachusetts Avenue, North Ad... Massachusetts was used as an interim storage area for 304 of these drum... The other drums remained at 87 Marshall Street. There is no evidence ... suggests that any of these drums leaked radioactive material while in storage. A survey dated October 11, 1990, was submitted by Sprague w... indicated that the warehouse was not contaminated with radioactive mate... The room in which the drums were stored and an adjacent room were surveyed for radioactive contamination.

3. Instruments Used in Survey

Radiation level measurements were made with a Ludlum Model 19 Micro-R-Meter (NRC 019634) and an Eberline Model E-120 Geiger Counter (NRC 003560).

4. Radiation Level Measurements

None of the measurements indicated the presence of uranium from the barrels that were stored there. 82 measurements were made with the Micro R Meter. Readings were taken at one meter and at contact with the floor. The ambient level measured with the Micro R Meter was 7 - 12 uR/hr which was the same as the natural background. The average reading with the geiger counter was 0.02 mR/hr which was the same as the natural background.

5. Survey for Removable Contamination

Ten wipes were taken in the building to determine the level of removable contamination. Analysis of the wipes did not indicate the presence of radioactive contamination.

6. Summary

The inspector's measurements indicated that there was neither fixed nor removable contamination at the facility and that all drums containing uranium-contaminated soil had been removed. This survey confirms the results of the survey, dated October 11, 1990, that was submitted by Sprague.