

DEC 4 1990

In Reply Refer To:
License: 42-26900-01
Docket: 30-30175/90-04
EA: 90-213

Western Stress, Inc.
ATTN: Paul Abat, President
11011 Richmond Avenue, Suite 800
Houston, Texas 77042

Gentlemen:

This refers to the special, announced radiation safety inspection conducted by Ms. J. A. Joustra and Mr. M. C. Roberts of our Region I office on October 5-6, 1990, of the activities authorized by NRC Byproduct Material License No. 42-26900-01, and to the discussion of our findings with your corporate radiation safety officer via telephone on October 23, 1990.

The inspection was conducted in response to the NRC's notification by Western Stress, Inc. (WSI), of an incident involving a disconnect of a radiography source. The inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and records related to the specific incident, interviews of personnel, and observations by the inspectors.

The inspection revealed a number of violations associated with this specific incident. These violations are of particular concern to the NRC because they apparently resulted in an overexposure to radiation to one of your employees. The overexposure was due to failure to perform tasks basic to conducting radiography safely.

This raises the concern that there may be a fundamental weakness in your training program or supervision of radiographers. Consequently, you should be prepared to address these concerns during the enforcement conference discussed below.

This letter also confirms the December 3, 1990, telephone conversation between Mr. Frongillo and Mr. C. Cain of my staff concerning NRC's request to conduct an enforcement conference concerning these issues. The enforcement conference has been scheduled for December 7, 1990, at 1 p.m. at the NRC Region IV office in Arlington, Texas. A proposed enforcement conference agenda is enclosed as Appendix B. During the enforcement conference, you should be prepared to address those specific items referenced in the inspection report as well as those specific actions planned or taken to prevent further violations.

RIV:NMSIS
RABrown:lm
12/4/90

C:NMSIS
ELCain
12/4/90

D:DRSS
ABBeach
12/4/90

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REG4 LIC30
42-26900-01 PNU

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We are releasing this report at this time for your information and to aid you in preparing for the conference. You will be notified by separate correspondence of our decision regarding enforcement action based on the findings of this inspection and the results of the enforcement conference. No written response to this report is required at this time; however, you may provide a response at this time, in particular, if you wish to describe any corrective actions taken.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

A. B. BEACH

A. Bill Beach, Director
Division of Radiation Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosures:

1. Appendix A - NRC Inspection Report
30-30175/90-04
2. Appendix B - Proposed Enforcement
Conference Agenda

cc:

Texas Radiation Control Program Director

bcc:

DMB - Original (IE-07)
RDMartin
ABBeach
LAYandell
MRodriguez, OC/LFDCB (4503)
*WLFisher
*CLCain
*Inspector
*NMSIS
*MIS System
*RIV Files (2)
*RSTS Operator
*REHall, URFO

*W/766