

JAN 9 1991

*Redwood*

Michigan Technological University  
ATTN: Bert Whitten, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Student  
Services  
Houghton, MI 49931

Licenses No. 21-00278-02;  
21-00278-03;  
SNM-256  
Docket No. 030-00810;  
030-06962;  
070-00277

Gentlemen:

This refers to the routine safety inspection conducted by Messrs S. J. Mulay and M. F. Kurth of this office on December 18, 1990 of activities authorized by NRC Byproduct Material Licenses No. 21-00278-02 and 21-00278-03 and Special Nuclear Material License No. SNM-256 and to the discussion of our findings with you and Mr. Donald Daavettila at the conclusion of the inspection.

The inspection was an examination of activities conducted under your license as they relate to radiation safety and to compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations and with the conditions of your license. The inspection consisted of a selective examination of procedures and representative records, observations, independent measurements, and interviews with personnel.

In addition to the above areas, the inspectors examined actions described in your letters dated May 26, 1988 and August 2, 1988, regarding violations found for License No. 21-00278-02 during our May 1988 inspection. With the exception of not performing area swipe tests for removable contamination, we have no further questions regarding these matters.

During this inspection, certain of your activities under License No. 21-00278-02 appeared to be in violation of NRC requirements, as specified in the enclosed Notice and a written response is required. No violations were identified for License No. 21-00278-03 and License No. SNM-256.

In addition to our concern for your corrective action with respect to the violations noted, we are concerned about the operability of certain radiation detection instrumentation. Specifically, during the inspection, two radiation monitors used in Laboratories 104 and 133 were found to be inoperable or in need of repair. Therefore, in your response to this letter, please describe what measures will be taken to ensure that available radiation detection instrumentation functions adequately when needed.

Violation No. 1 is a repeat item. In your response to this violation, please describe why your proposed corrective action is expected to be more successful in preventing future or similar violations than the corrective action specified in your May 26, 1988 letter.

*IE07*  
*11*

JAN 9 1991

Michigan Technological University 2

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

The responses directed 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.

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

Sincerely,

Roy J. Caniano, Chief  
Nuclear Materials Safety  
Section 2

Enclosure: Notice of Violation

cc w/enclosure:  
D. Daavettala, RSO  
DCD/DCB (RIDS)

④ RIII  
Muly/7h  
1/9/91

RIII  
Kurth  
1/9/91

RIII  
Caniano  
1/9/91