

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Region I

Report No. 030-20772/93-001 License No. 29-21430-01  
Docket No. 030-20772  
Licensee: Fabco Piping, Incorporated  
1000 South 4th Street  
Harrison, New Jersey 07029  
Facility Name: Fabco Piping, Incorporated  
Inspection At: Guynon General Piping, Incorporated  
900 South Rogers Boulevard  
Harrison, New Jersey 07029  
Inspection Dates: February 10, 1993 and August 18, 1993

Inspector: Charles G. Amato  
Charles G. Amato, Health Physicist

May 10, 1994  
date

Approved by: Walter J. Pasciak  
Walter J. Pasciak, Chief  
Industrial Applications Section  
Division of Radiation Safety and  
Safeguards

5-13-94  
date

Inspection Summary: Closeout and confirmatory, announced inspections conducted on February 10, 1993 and August 18, 1993. (Inspection Report No. 030-20772/93-001)

Areas Inspected: Radiation survey of the former Fabco Piping, Incorporated facility to locate a Texas Nuclear Model 9200 series X-ray fluorescence analyzer containing the following sources: Plutonium-238, Americium-241, Cadmium-109 and Iron-55.

Results: The analyzer and the sources were located and returned to TN Technology. The facility is released for unrestricted use and the Fabco Piping, Incorporated NRC License No. 29-21430-01 has been retired.

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## DETAILS

### 1.0 Persons Contacted

The following personnel were contacted in person or by phone.

- \*\* Carl Blim, President, Fabco Piping, Incorporated
- \*\* Richard Burgos, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Energy
- \*\* John Feeney, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Energy
- \* Theodore Pichalski, Manager Facility Engineering, Guyon General Piping, Inc.
- \*\* George Schlavis, Account, Becker & Company
- \*\* Sunil Garg, Esquire, Lowenstein, Sandlander, Kohl, Fisher, & Boyland

\* Denotes personnel who attended the exit meeting.

\*\* Denotes personnel who participated in a telephone exit meeting.

### 2.0 Background Information

Guyon General Piping, Incorporated leased the land and buildings at 1000 South 4th Street (now South Rogers Boulevard) from T. Levy in Harrison, Hudson County, New Jersey. Guyon subsequently underlet approximately one-quarter of their property and structure to Fabco Piping, Incorporated (Fabco). Fabco obtained a NRC specific license to possess and use four radioactive sources in a X-Ray fluorescent analyzer. Fabco ceased operation during June 1988, the NRC license expired October 31, 1988, Fabco abandoned the property and sources prior to lease expiration in 1990.

Prior to the inspection, the NRC was unable to locate the Fabco office or Fabco executives and managers in order to arrange site access. The NRC did identify and locate the agents for the property owner (Becker & Company) and facility operator, Guyon General Piping, Inc. and arranged for access through them. Guyon assigned a manager to accompany Inspector Amato at all times.

While attempting to locate Fabco officials, the NRC developed information as to the corporate relation with other companies to which Fabco referred to as "sister companies" in past correspondence with the NRC. Fabco is a New Jersey corporation wholly owned by Piping Industries, Incorporated, and was the manufacturing arm of Piping Industries. These companies are privately held and were traced to the J. J. McMullen Group, Incorporated. Fabco at the time of the inspection had not been dissolved and had not filed a bankruptcy petition.

Following the inspection, the NRC continued it's efforts to locate Fabco officials and identified Mr. Carl Blim of New York City as the Fabco President.

### 3.0 Sources

On September 29, 1979 Texas Nuclear (now TN Technology) shipped to Cornell and Underhill of Hoboken, Hudson County, New Jersey the following components of a Texas Nuclear Model 9200 fluorescent X-ray analyzer:

1. Source Holder Model No. 9256, Serial No. B-357 containing 30 millicuries of Plutonium-238, source Serial No. LP0268;
2. Source Holder Model No. 9256, Serial No. B-356 containing 20 millicuries of Iron -55, Source Serial No. C-311
3. Source Holder Model No. 9254, Serial No. B-247 containing 3.0 millicuries of Cadmium-109, Source Serial No. LU-1118;
4. One probe (detector) containing 500 nanocuries of Americium-241, Serial No. B-395
5. Aluminum carrying case with locks; and,
6. Cabling, and electronic pack, 9200 electronics, Serial No. B-441.

The weight of the Plutonium-238 source is below that for a reportable quantity per 10 CFR 70.52 and is not strategically significant.

On July 7, 1983, the Chief Inspector for Fabco Piping, Incorporated advised the NRC in writing that Cornell & Underhill operations have been discontinued and their license was not to be renewed. The analyzer was transferred to Fabco Piping, Incorporated (License No. 29-21430-01).

### 4.0 Radiological Evaluation

During the close-out and confirmatory inspection, visual observations were made, background radiation was measured, wipes were taken, media samples were collected and a 540 cubic meter filtered air sample was drawn during the confirmatory inspection. Background was measured using a Bicron micro-rem-meter and a Lutetium thin, end window Geiger-Muller detector. Readings were 5uR/hr. in the street and parking lot, 10 uR/hr. in the vacated Fabco\Piping Industries Office Building, and 25 uR/hr. within the former Quality Control Office where the analyzer was found, on contact with the exterior surface of the carrying case and source holder. Reading did not vary as the survey meters were rotated through 360 degrees and raised from floor level to a height

of about nine feet. Radiation intensity was also invariant in a horizontal plane. These measurements were made at a number of locations and were reproducible. The survey meters were placed against the surface of a source holder and withdrawn to a distance of about six feet. There was no inverse square law fall-off of intensity.

Analysis results for the wipes, media samples and the air particulate and gaseous air results were negative. The sensitivity for detection is 5 disintegrations per minute (dpm) for alpha particles and 9 dpm for beta particles. The statistical performance specification is the 95% confidence level for Type I and Type II errors.

#### 5.0 Source Removal

Following surveys and a field check of the wipes, source identities were checked against the inventory noted in Section 3 above. No discrepancy was noted and the sources were returned to their carrying case which was secured.

Arrangements were made to return the fluorescent X-Ray analyzer with its sources to TN Technology, Inc. (the successor to Texas Nuclear). W. G. Hendrick of RT Radiation Technology leak tested the 9200 series analyzer prior to packaging it for transport to TN Technology. No leakage was detected. TN Technology accepted the analyzer with its sources and placed them under their Texas License No. LO 3524; and acknowledged receipt of these sources in a letter dated June 8, 1993 addressed to Guyon General Piping, Inc. a copy of which was sent to NRC RI. Mr. Hendrick's and TN Technology inventories are in identical agreement with those noted Section 3 above.

#### 6.0 License Retirement

After the sources were removed, the NRC sent to Mr. Blim NRC Form 314, "Disposition of Radioactive Material". This form has not been returned to the NRC. Therefore, the NRC, based on the information in section 5.0 above, has retired the Fabco license.

#### 7.0 Facility Release

Based on the Radiological Evaluation of Section 4.0 above, the former Fabco facility is released for unrestricted use.

#### 8.0 Exit Meeting

Following the inspections and analysis of wipes and samples, the individuals identified in Section 1 above were briefed on a one-on-one basis by phone or in person.