



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

JUN 15 1994

Docket: 030-28641
License: 42-23539-01AF

Department of the Air Force
USAF Radioisotope Committee
ATTN: Lt. Col. Joseph J. Donnelly
8901 18th Street
Brooks AFB, Texas 78235-5217

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 030-28641/94-03

This refers to the routine, unannounced inspection conducted on April 25-26, 1994, at Vandenberg Air Force Base (AFB), California, by Mr. John M. Jacobson of Region IV's field office, Walnut Creek, California. The inspection included a review of activities authorized by Byproduct Materials License 42-23539-01AF under Air Force Permit Nos. 04-30239-1AFP and 04-11398-1AFP. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with members of your staff.

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

No violations or deviations were identified; therefore, no response to this letter is required.

Permit No. 04-30239-1AFP authorized the Fuels Laboratory at Vandenberg AFB to possess sealed sources containing nickel-63 (Ni-63) and tritium for use in gas chromatographs. The permittee possessed four tritium sources containing 190 millicuries (mCi) each, and three Ni-63 sources, each containing 15-20 mCi. The permittee had appropriately trained its users in accordance with permit conditions and had maintained adequate inventory control of its sources. Discussions with users indicated that they were knowledgeable about NRC and Air Force requirements.

Permit No. 04-11398-1AFP authorized Vandenberg AFB to possess and use a wide variety of radioisotopes for research and development and operational testing and evaluation of space and missile systems. At the time of the inspection, the only materials possessed by permittee were approximately 100 Ni-63 sealed sources (40 microcuries each) for use in missile destruct units and three depleted uranium counterbalances used in joint test assemblies. The permittee's radiation safety committee (RSC) had reviewed all proposed uses and launches of permitted materials and had required that users attend the

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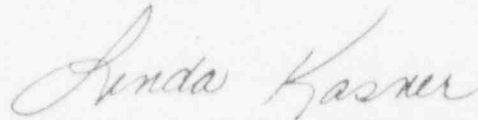
RSC's quarterly meetings. The inspector also noted that audits performed by the radiation safety officer appear to be thorough. The permittee had maintained adequate inventory control of all its sources.

Also reviewed were the actions you had taken with respect to the violations observed during our previous inspection conducted on July 12-13, 1990. The inspection verified that corrective actions for these violations had been implemented, and that these actions were effective.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Ms. Linda McLean at (817) 860-8116.

Sincerely,



Charles L. Cain, Acting Chief
Nuclear Materials Inspection Branch

cc:
California Radiation Control Program Director

Department of the Air Force
USAF Radioisotope Committee

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- bcc:
DMB - Original (IE-07)
LJCallan
SJCollins
RAScarano, DRSS/RIV
Dweiss, OC/LFDCB (T-9E10)
*WLFisher
*CLCain
*FAWenslawski
*MLMcLean
*JMJacobson, WCFO
*NMIB
*MIS System
*RIV Files (2)

*W/IFS Form

*RIV:NMIB	AC:NMIB			
MLMcLean	CLCain			
06/ /94	06/13/94			

*Previously concurred

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