

FEB 8 1972

G. W. Roy, Chief, Materials & Fuel Facilities Branch
Division of Compliance, HQ

CO INQUIRY REPORT NO. 7201
GULF UNITED NUCLEAR FUELS CORPORATION
GRASSLANDS ROAD
ELMSFORD, NEW YORK 10523
TYPE A - LOSS OF FACILITY

The subject inquiry report is forwarded for your information.

Since this incident did not result in exposure to employees or a release of material to the unrestricted area, we do not plan to make an investigation. The licensee's plans and procedures for decontaminating the affected area were discussed by telecon and appeared to contain the necessary controls to provide health and safety protection for the employees.

Mr. Loyson stated that a report would be forwarded to the AEC within 30 days. This incident will be reviewed during the next inspection scheduled during February.

H. W. Crocker
Senior Fuel Facilities Inspector

Enclosure:
Subject Inquiry Report (3)

cc: CO Files

CO *Smith* *Crocker* *Nelson*
Smith/ear Crocker Nelson
2-4-72 2/11/72

B/27

B. Description of Particular Event or Circumstance: (Cont'd)

the Laboratory were counted and these were less than 10^{-15} $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$. The floor areas in the vicinity of the box were contaminated to a maximum of about 500,000 dpm/100 cm^2 - tops of gloveboxes, about 100,000 dpm/100 cm^2 and walls of the room were about 3000 dpm/100 cm^2 .

C. Action by Licensee:

The first entry to the Laboratory was made with emergency protective apparel. Decontamination of the area was started and the room containing the glovebox was isolated. On January 3, 1972 the other Laboratory rooms were found to be at normal contamination levels and all air samples were less than MPC. As of January 17, 1972 the glovebox had not been decontaminated on the inside. The affected room is being decontaminated and some equipment is being prepared for burial. The licensee's investigating committee has been assigned to determine the cause of the incident. The investigation is not complete, however, based on the current data the licensee believes the cause was due to the oxygen exhaust system for the box being inadequate and therefore, the oxygen flowed back through interconnected boxes S-202 and S-204, where it was mixed with the hydrogen at the induction furnace and ignited.

