

RETURN TO ^{P1-37} 396-SS

70-371

UNC Naval Products



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September 28, 1990

Theodore S. Sherr, Chief
Domestic Safeguards and Regional
Oversight Branch
Division of Safeguards and
Transportation, NMSS
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Sherr:

Subject: Searching of Packages Entering the Protected Area

References: (1) Letter, D. Kasun, NRC, to R. Gigliotti, UNC,
7/9/90, Same Subject.

(2) Meeting, NMSS Staff and Category 1 Licensees,
8/8/90, Rockville, MD,
Subject: Generic Issues.

Pursuant to NRC's request at the meeting referenced as (2) above,
this is in response to Reference (1).

As was discussed at that meeting, the X-ray equipment in use at UNC
Naval Products to search packages meets the guidance in NUREG 1329 in
that it is equipment designed for searching packages. Additionally,
it is equipped with a color enhancement feature which aids in the
explosives detection function.

As was further discussed, the ultimate object is to prevent a bomb
from being introduced into the protected area. X-ray equipment aids
in the detection of those components necessary for a bomb, i.e.,
wiring, detonator(s), initiator(s), power source(s), etc. with a far
greater degree of assurance than equipment currently available for
detecting "explosives." Despite claims to the contrary, virtually
all explosives detection equipment currently available will not
detect plastic explosives. It is precisely this category of
explosives referred to in NUREG 1329 when the statement is made that,
"Direct observation is not considered an acceptable explosives search
because plastic explosives can be molded and disguised as different
objects."

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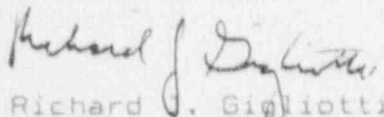
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Unfortunately, cost-effective equipment for detecting non-nitrate explosives with any reasonable degree of certainty, is unavailable at this time. Until it does become available, our efforts, therefore, should be concentrated on preventing the introduction of bombs into the protected area. X-ray equipment, especially with the color enhancement feature, offers one of the best methods for meeting this objective.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Gigliotti
Corporate Security Director

cc: R. Gregg
R. Jason
P. Dwyer, NRC

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