

✓ Docket No. 040-00672

Nuclear Metals, Inc.
ATTN: Mr. W. B. Tuffin
President
2229 Main Street
Concord, Massachusetts 01742

Gentlemen:

Subject: Inspection 78-01

This refers to the inspection conducted by Dr. J. Glenn of this office on February 28 and March 1, 1978, of activities authorized by NRC License No. SMB-179 and to the discussions of our findings held by Dr. Glenn with yourself and Mr. A. Gilman of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection, and to a subsequent telephone discussions between Mr. Gilman and Dr. Glenn on March 6 and 10, 1978.

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 the conditions of your license. The inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, measurements made by the inspector, and observations by the inspector.

In addition, our inspector took wipe samples of floors and equipment located in your facilities, took liquid samples from your acid treatment facility, and took water samples from a well located on your property. These samples were analyzed in the Region Office Laboratory in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. The basic purpose of these independent measurements was to verify your capability for identifying and evaluating radioactive contaminants in your facility and in effluents from your facility. The results of this analysis indicated activity in the machining and finishing area of your facility which are in excess of that determined by your routine contamination surveys. You are advised to review your methods for detecting radioactive contamination. We will review this matter during the next inspection of your licensed program.

Our inspector also verified the steps you have taken to correct the item of noncompliance brought to your attention in a letter dated April 18, 1977. With regard to this item, as noted in Appendix A of this letter, this item has not been completely corrected. We will review this matter during the next inspection of your licensed program.

OFFICE ▶	FFMS <i>RG/fv</i>	FFMS <i>RG/fv</i>	FFMS <i>RG/fv</i>		
SURNAME ▶	Glenn/fcc	McClintock	Nelson		
DATE ▶	3/22/78	3/22/78	3/24/78		

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Based on the results of this inspection, it appears that certain of your activities were not conducted in full compliance with NRC requirements, as set forth in the Notice of Violation, enclosed herewith as Appendix A. These items of noncompliance have been categorized into the levels as described in our correspondence to you dated December 31, 1974. This notice is sent to you pursuant to the provisions of Section 2.201 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations. Section 2.201 requires you to submit to this office, within twenty (20) days of your receipt of this notice, a written statement or explanation in reply including: (1) corrective steps which have been taken by you and the results achieved; (2) corrective steps which will be taken to avoid further items of noncompliance; and (3) the date when full compliance will be achieved.

Another activity appears to be a deviation from accepted radiological safety practices, as documented in Report No. 30 of the National Committee on Radiation Protection (National Bureau of Standards Handbook 92, Section 3.4, Page 18). In this regard, you permitted smoking in the same areas where radioactive materials are used. Specifically, on February 28, 1978, employees were observed smoking in your restricted machining and finishing area. Please include in your response, your comments concerning this Deviation.

HC OK
J. Klotzner
3/2/78
Raj

Item number A.2, shown in the Notice of Violation enclosed with this letter, is a recurrent item. In your response please give this matter your particular attention.

From the discussions at the conclusion of the inspection and from the telephone discussions between Dr. Glenn and Mr. Gilman, it is our understanding that your consultant is reviewing your bioassay program and air sampling program. You are advised that changes in procedures which result from any recommendations made as a result at this review to improve your capability to detect and to initiate corrective actions regarding uptakes of depleted uranium at the levels specified in Regulatory Guide 8.11, should be submitted to the USNRC's Radioisotope Licensing Branch, Washington, D.C. 20555. We will review this matter during the next inspection of your licensed program.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and your reply will be placed in the Public Document Room.

OFFICE ►						
SURNAME ►						
DATE ►						

Nuclear Metals, Inc.

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Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

Paul R. Nelson, Chief
Fuel Facility and Materials Safety
Branch

Enclosure: Appendix A, Notice of Violation

bcc w/encl:
IE Mail & Files (For Appropriate Distribution)
Central Files
Public Document Room (PDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
REG:I Reading Room
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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