

Nuclear Materials and Equipment Corporation

Apollo, Pennsylvania 15613

Telephone 412-842-0111

Cable NUMEC

November 6, 1968

*W. H. Epstein*  
*Epstein*  
*W. H.*

Mr. Robert W. Kirkman, Director  
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission  
Region 1 - Division of Compliance  
Room 806  
970 Broad Street  
Newark, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Kirkman:

Mr. Eugene Epstein conducted an inspection of our Radiation Process Center near Clearfield, Pennsylvania, on October 28 through 31. During the inspection five items were noted by Mr. Epstein. Below is a list of these items and the measures we are taking to correct them.

Item 1 A small fraction of cell entries were not preceded by air sampling.

Health Physics coverage has always been provided for each cell entry and an evaluation of cell conditions is made prior to each entry. However, during repeated entries in a short time period, air samples were not always taken each time.

Corrective Measures

We intend to amend our license to provide for reasonable evaluations before cell entry. Until we receive approval for this amendment, we will evaluate airborne radioactivity within the cell before each entry.

Item 2 Solid radioactive waste was disposed without an adequate estimate of radioactivity.

In particular, the recorded radiation surveys did not always correlate with the listed microcurie contents.

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Corrective Measures

In the future, all solid radioactive waste disposed at the Radiation Process Center will be evaluated by the resident health physicist and recorded in microcuries.

- Item 3 Air flow measurements into the hot cells have not been recorded routinely.

Corrective Measures

The pressure drop in the cell has always been measured and evaluated on a regular basis. However, air flow measurements will be determined and recorded at least monthly on all cells and also if negative pressure rises above the permissible limit in any individual cell.

- Item 4 Contamination levels in the fan room have exceeded license levels.

Corrective Measures

The fan room comes under a rather restrictive limit of 500 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>. We think that a more permissible limit should be allowed and we will apply for an increased limit. However, the fan room has been decontaminated below 500 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup> and will be maintained below this level until approval has been received.

- Item 5 Counter efficiencies were determined with a Sr<sup>90</sup> calibration source while Co<sup>60</sup> was the chief contaminate.

Corrective Measures

In the future, all calibrations of end window counters will be done using sources similar in energy to the contaminate being measured.

Our Radiation Process Center safety program is now under the guidance of Mr. E. Reitler. He has already instituted the indicated corrections to the radiation protection program. If there are any questions, please call either Mr. Reitler or myself.

Very truly yours,

*Roger Caldwell*

Roger D. Caldwell, Manager  
Health and Safety