



State of Wisconsin

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS  
Division of Emergency Government

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October 27, 1995

Robert G. Gattone, Jr., Radiation Specialist  
Nuclear Materials Inspection Section 1  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region III  
801 Warrenville Road  
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4351

48-07436-01

Dear Mr. Gattone:

030-07472

This is in response to your letter dated September 26, 1995, regarding the inspection conducted on August 24, 1995, at our facilities at 2400 Wright Street in Madison, Wisconsin.

Two areas of concern during this inspection. The first concern involved several of our training sources (sets #328, 348, 354, and 467) that are discolored and undergoing some type of metallurgic reaction. The second concern was that the imprinted serial numbers were becoming hard to read on some of the sources. While our semi-annual leak tests have not indicated any degradation in source integrity, you requested that we contact the manufacturer to determine the nature of this reaction and determine whether the reaction might lead to a future degradation of source integrity.

Baird Atomic, the original manufacturer of the sources, is no longer in business. However, the State of Wisconsin received the sources from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Test Facility. While the State of Wisconsin possesses these sources, they are actually on loan from FEMA. We contacted Jose Cortez of the FEMA Test facility regarding the issue of the metallurgic reaction; it was his recommendation that the sources be taken out of service and transferred to the Test Facility. We plan to transfer the source sets #328, 348, 354, and 467 by the end of November.

Our remaining source sets will be examined for signs of the same metallurgic reaction during future quarterly inventories.

Regarding the illegibility of imprinted serial numbers on the sources, we found that problem to be limited to the source sets listed above. In any case, we will check the serial number legibility during future quarterly inventories and will maintain proper source labeling in accordance to conditions 14a and 14b of our radioactive materials license.

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Thank you for your attention in this matter. Feel free to call Stephen Malmberg, our Radiation Safety Officer, at (608) 242-3243 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christine C. Bacon", written in dark ink.

Christine C. Bacon, Director,  
Bureau of Technological Hazards

cc: Leroy E. Conner, Jr., Administrator  
Stephen C. Malmberg, Radiation Safety Officer