

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I

Report No. 70-687/84-04

Docket No. 70-687

License No. SNM-639

Safeguards Group I

Licensee: Union Carbide Corporation

P. O. Box 324

Tuxedo, New York 10987

Facility Name: Sterling Forest Research Center

Inspection At: Tuxedo, New York

Inspection Conducted: July 30 - August 2, 1984

Date of Last Material Control and Accounting Inspection: March 26-30, 1984

Type of Inspection: Unannounced Material Control and Accounting

Inspector: A. Della Ratta
A. Della Ratta, Safeguards Auditor

8/20/84
date

Approved by: R. R. Keinig
R. R. Keinig, Chief, Safeguards
Section

8/20/84
date

Inspection Summary:

Areas Inspected: Shipper-Receiver Verification and Records and Reports. The inspection involved 19.5 inspector-hours onsite by a NRC region-based inspector and was begun during regular hours.

Results: The licensee was in compliance with NRC requirements for the areas examined during the inspection.

DETAILS

1. Key Persons Contacted

- *J. Mc Govern, Business Manager, Radiochemicals
- *C. Konnerth, Manager, Health, Safety, and Environmental Affairs
- P. O'Callahan, Supervisor, Quality Control
- *L. Thelin, Radiation Safety Officer
- J. Ditton, Supervisor, Health Physics
- J. Lucas, MBA-1 Custodian
- L. Pitt, MBA-2 Custodian
- S. Sokolofsky, MBA-4 Alternate Custodian

The inspector also interviewed other licensee employees associated with plant operations and nuclear material control.

*Present at exit interview.

2. 92701 - Licensee Action on Previously Identified Items

(Closed) Inspector Follow-up Item (70-687/84-01-01): Samples taken for physical inventory verification were analyzed by the licensee's laboratory and New Brunswick Laboratory. A comparison of the laboratories' results revealed no significant differences.

3. 30703 - Exit Interview

The inspector met with the licensee representatives (denoted in paragraph 1) at the conclusion of the inspection on August 2, 1984. The inspector summarized the scope and findings of the inspection. At no time during this inspection was written material provided to the licensee by the inspector.

4. 92713 - Independent Inspection Effort

The inspector toured the facility and observed the licensee's adherence to the Fundamental Nuclear Material Control Plan (FNMCP), material control procedures and health and safety procedures within the material access area and the reactor area. Personnel contamination monitors were operating and being used by employees upon exiting from the process area.

5. 85208 - Shipper-Receiver Verification

The licensee had established and maintained procedures to assure that all special nuclear material (SNM) received was accounted for accurately. The Site Accountability Officer coordinated efforts so that license possession limits were not exceeded.

The licensee confirmed all receipts of SNM within 24 hours, through examination of source documentation and weight verification. The uranium

content of receipts was verified usually within 5 working days. The licensee had not experienced any significant shipper-receiver differences on receipts and shipments of SNM for the period January 4, 1984 through June 29, 1984. Receipts involve only small quantities of uranium (average 639 grams per receipt).

The DOE/NRC Form - 741's, completed for these transactions, were reviewed against criteria for preparing and completing the form, timeliness of issuance and completion, correction of data, and authorized signature. No discrepancies were noted.

6. 85216 - Records and Reports

The inspector audited the nuclear material control records and reports for the high enriched physical inventory material balance periods ending March 1, 1984, May 3, 1984, and June 29, 1984. All line items on the SNM inventory reports were traced to source documents and cross checked to the records maintained by the licensee and to the DOE-NMMSS computer tabulations. No discrepancies were noted.

The Material Status Reports (DOE/NRC Form-742) covering the period ending March 31, 1984 were submitted in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 70.53.

The inspector also determined that the licensee's master log and the material balance area logs (MBA) were reconciled and adjusted to each of the physical inventory results within 30 days.