

June 19, 1984
EN 84-35

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OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
NOTIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Licensee: John C. Haynes Company, Newark, Ohio
License No. 34-13774-01

Subject: ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

This is to inform the Commission that an Order to Show Cause is being issued today to John C. Haynes Company. This Order is being issued due to extensive contamination at the licensee's facility located at Rural Route 6, Newark, Ohio. During the 1970's the licensee's facility was used to irradiate diamonds and other gemstones using unsealed americium-241 for the purpose of inducing color changes. At one time the licensee possessed up to 21 curies of americium-241 and 2 curies of cerium-144. There may be up to 150 millicuries of americium-241 still present at the facility. The licensee's enforcement history has been marked by a series of violations of NRC requirements which raise questions regarding its capability to safely control licensed radioactive material. On August 19, 1983, the licensee requested termination of its license. As the result of inspections conducted in July and August, 1983 at the licensee facility, Region III inspectors and an NRC consultant, Oak Ridge Associated Universities, have determined that extensive contamination exists, both in restricted and unrestricted areas of the facility. Although no contamination has to date been detected off the licensee's property, since the americium-241 still present in the facility is in powder form and could be dispersed as a result of vandalism, fire, or other phenomena, the public health and safety requires that the facility be decontaminated expeditiously prior to termination of the license. Since the licensee has not provided a description of the contamination in its facility or an adequate plan for decontamination, this Order requires the licensee to show cause why its facility should not be decontaminated in accordance with a decontamination plan prepared by Oak Ridge Associated Universities or an alternative plan.

Under terms of the Order, the licensee may, within 25 days of the date of receipt of the Order, file a written answer under oath or affirmation and may also request a hearing.

A news release will be issued about the time the licensee receives the Order. The State of Ohio will be notified.

Contact: E. Fiack, IE 29823

J. Axelrad, IE 24909

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