

JUN 24 1997

Phillip J. Nessler, Jr.
Chairman, Radiation Safety Committee
National Aeronautics & Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center
Health Physics, Code 205.2
Greenbelt, MD 20771-0001

SUBJECT: INSPECTION NO. 030-04538/97-001

Dear Mr. Nessler:

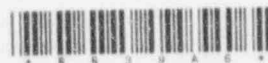
On May 13, 15, and 16, 1997, Keith Brown of this office conducted a safety inspection at the location above and at a temporary job site in McLean, Virginia of activities authorized by the NRC license listed below. The inspection was an examination of your licensed activities as they relate to radiation safety and to compliance with the Commission's regulations and the license conditions. The inspection consisted of observations by the inspector, interviews with personnel, and a selective examination of representative records. The findings of the inspection were discussed with you and Mike McNeill at the conclusion of the inspection.

Within the scope of this inspection, no violations were identified.

During the inspection, the inspector reviewed an occurrence in which two sealed sources, used at Vandenberg Air Force Base from October 1995 to March 1996, were shipped to Goddard Space Flight Center without paperwork required by the Department of Transportation. This was identified independently by both Goddard Space Flight Center and Vandenberg Air Force Base. The cause of this occurrence appears to be confusion as to who was responsible for the sources while they were at Vandenberg Air Force Base. Lockheed Martin shipped the sources to Vandenberg, at which point they considered them transferred to Goddard despite the fact that the authorization to use them at Vandenberg was issued in favor of Lockheed Martin's NRC license. The authorization was requested by a representative of Goddard without the knowledge or consent of either Goddard or Lockheed Martin Radiation Safety personnel, and it named the Goddard representative as the custodian of the sources.

When all Lockheed Martin personnel left Vandenberg, the sources were left with the representative of Goddard on the site. That individual, who was not trained in shipping procedures for radioactive material, shipped the sources to Goddard without the proper paperwork. Since this individual was a Goddard representative, but had been working under an authorization issued to Lockheed Martin, we believe both licensees have some responsibility for the improper shipping paperwork. The inspector concluded that this was an isolated occurrence and is not representative of your

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY



9707070131 970624
PDR ADOCK 03004538
C PDR

RETURN ORIGINAL TO
REGION I

1E:07

P. Nessler
National Aeronautics
& Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center

-2-

performance on other projects. Due to the minor safety significance of the occurrence and the action already taken by Vandenberg Air Force Base to prevent recurrence, we have not cited a violation against either licensee. However, the NRC expects that you will ensure that similar confusion over responsibilities does not occur in the future.

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 will be placed in the Public Document Room. No reply to this letter is required.

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
John D. Kinneman

John D. Kinneman, Chief
Nuclear Materials Safety Branch 2
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No.: 030-04538
License No.: 19-05748-02

cc:
Theodore D. Simmons, Radiation Safety Officer
State of Maryland
State of California

P. Nessler
National Aeronautics
& Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center

-3-

Distribution:

PUBLIC

Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
Region I Docket Room (w/concurrences)

DOCUMENT NAME: R:\WPS\MLDL\1905748.02

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: "C" = Copy w/o attach/encl "E" = Copy w/ attach/encl "N" = No copy

OFFICE	DNMS/RI	N	DNMS/RI				
NAME	KBrown/kdb		Kinneman				
DATE	06/18/97		06/18/97		06/ /97		06/ /97

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY