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July 2, 1997

David Kee, Division Director
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region V
Air and Radiation Division
AR-18J
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

SUBJECT: UNSPECIFIED RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL AT CHERRINGTON SCRAP METAL
INC., IN OAK HILL, OHIO

Dear Mr. Kee:

This refers to a June 9, 1997 telephone conversation between Mr. Jim Mitchell of your staff and Mr. Darrel Wiedeman of my staff concerning unspecified radioactive material located at a non-licensed facility in Oak Hill, Ohio. On June 5, 1997, it was reported to the NRC that scrap metal which originated from Cherrington Scrap Metal, Inc., 468 So. Front, Oak Hill, Ohio, alarmed the radiation detectors at a smelting facility in Huntington, West Virginia. The shipment of scrap metal was rejected and returned to Cherrington.

On June 5, 1997, a representative from the Ohio Department of Health conducted an on-site inspection at Cherrington and determined that a nuclear gauge containing approximately 300 millicuries of cesium-137 was located in the scrap metal shipment. We were informed that the gauge was physically secured with the shutter closed. The radiation levels at three (3) feet from the gauge were 0.05 milliroentgens/hour and the maximum reading on contact with the gauge shutter was 30 milliroentgens/hour.

Subsequently, NRC determined that the gauge (Kay Ray, Model 7050, source serial No. 1433) was manufactured and sold in 1973 as a generally licensed device to a now defunct company and subsequently sold to other end users. Since the owner(s) of the nuclear gauge could not be determined, this case is formally being referred to the Federal EPA per our Interagency Memorandum of Understanding for any additional action which may be required.

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We appreciate your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions and/or if you need clarification on any of the above information, please contact John Madera at (630) 829-9834 or George Parker at (630) 829-9808.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL Signed by

Roy J. Caniano, Acting Director
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

cc: J. Potter, NRC-RI
J. Mitchell, EPA-RV
J. Cooper, ODH

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NAME	DWiedeman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	JRMadera	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RJCaniano	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DATE	06/22/97	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	06/30/97	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	06/19/97	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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