



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

May 20, 1981

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FOR ADDRESSEES: SEE ATTACHED MAILING LIST

Gentlemen:

On April 14, 1981 you were sent IE Information Notice 81-13: JAMMED SOURCE RACK IN A GAMMA IRRADIATOR.

In the Notice, you were informed that the source rack was prevented from returning to the shielded position by product carrier boxes that were damaged and in disrepair. As a result of the failure of the source rack to return to the shielded position, several fires occurred in the product and product boxes. The fires were extinguished by the sprinkler system.

The Notice suggested that you should have procedures for inspection and removal of product boxes that are damaged or in any other way could interfere with the source rack travel. We wish to emphasize the need for you to incorporate into your procedures specific instructions which require your personnel to inspect each product carrier box to assure that it is not damaged and could not, under any circumstances, interfere with the source rack.

We are concerned with the fires that occurred as a result of the failure of the sources to be returned to the safe storage position. There is a need for a fire protection system which would promptly extinguish any fire which could affect the integrity of the sources. Therefore, we wish to stress the need for having an operable fire protection system in your facility. This matter will be examined at the next inspection of your facility and at the time of renewal or the next amendment of your license.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Cunningham, Director
Division of Fuel Cycle and
Material Safety
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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PDR FOIA
ROBINOW85-774 PDR

Enclosure: IE Info Notice 81-13

ENCLOSURE A 1

ADDRESSEES

Isomedix, Inc
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President
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29-15364-02

Ethicon, Inc.
ATTN: Mr. E. J. Kendra
Radiation Protection Officer
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Somerville, NJ 08876
License No. 29-02786-03

Dow Corning Corporation
ATTN: Mr. John T. Higgins
Radiation Safety Officer
Midland, Michigan 48640
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Department of the Army
U.S. Army Natick Research and
Development Command
ATTN: Mr. Thomas G. Martin
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20-00315-05

Perma Grain Products, Inc.
ATTN: Mr. Thomas E. Moslak
Resident Health & Safety
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Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company
ATTN: Mr. Robert G. Wissink
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Radioactive Materials
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License No. 22-00057-61

Becton-Dickinson
ATTN: Mr. W. R. Case
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U.S. Department of Commerce
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RSA Corporation
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Radiation Technology, Inc.
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