

August 4, 1997

Hoechst Celanese

Regional Administrator
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, S.W., Suite 23T85
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Portsmouth Plant Operations
Hoechst Celanese Corporation
3340 West Norfolk Road
Portsmouth, VA 23703
Tel 804-483-7000
Fax 804-483-7514

Subject: **Reply to a Notice of Violation**

Notice of Violation

Hoechst Celanese Corporation

Docket No. 030-19468

Portsmouth, Virginia

License No. 45-19889-01

The following is in response to the July 10, 1997 Notice of Violation to the Hoechst Celanese Corporation. Hoechst Celanese Corporation provides the following in response to the matters set forth in the Notice of Violation.

A: 10 CFR 20.190(a) requires the licensee to ensure that each container of licensed material bears a durable, clearly visible label bearing the words, "CAUTION, RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL" or "DANGER, RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL". The label must also provide sufficient information (such as radionuclide(s) present, an estimate of the quantity of radioactivity, the date for which the activity is estimated, etc.) to permit individuals handling or using the containers, or working in the vicinity of the containers, to take precautions to avoid or minimize exposures.

Contrary to the above, on June 27, 1997, three of eight containers of licensed material did not bear a label that identified the radionuclide(s) or the quantity of radioactivity. Nor did it otherwise bear sufficient information to permit individuals handling or using the container, or working in the vicinity of the container, to take precautions to avoid or minimize exposure. Specifically, labels on fixed gauges containing 50-3000 millicuries of Cesium 137, located on the line 2 auger, the amine reactor, and the dilute caustic feed line in the Amines plant were functionally obscured with paint or dirt.

Response: (1.) The legibility of gauge information labels became obscured during normal operations of the plant.

Response: (2.) The following corrective steps and results are as follows:

(2a.) Line 2 auger gauge information label was obscured by wet product leaking from a hole in the plant roof. It has been thoroughly cleaned and the label is now clearly visible. The leaking roof has been repaired. This was completed on June 30, 1997.



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(2b.) Amines reactor gauge had a Plexiglas shield that obscured the view of the gauge label. After communicating with Ohmart in regards to the necessity of the shield, it was determined to be unnecessary as long as there is a shield protecting the top of the gauge from wash down and freezing rain. The Plexiglas shield was removed and the gauge thoroughly cleaned. The gauge information label is now clearly visible. This was completed June 30, 1997.

(2c.) Dilute caustic feed line gauge had paint obscuring the gauge information label. This was thoroughly cleaned on June 30, 1997, and even though it is now clearly visible, a new label has been ordered from Ohmart to replace the existing label. This will be received and installed by August 9, 1997.

Response: (3.) The following corrective steps have been taken to avoid further violations.

(3a.) A scheduled PM work order for the nuclear gauge audit, shutter, and label inspection has been created in the Engineering Maintenance Management System (EMMS). This computer system will automatically generate a work order every six months to check the nuclear gauge inventory, shutter function and **information label**. The PM work order specifies the inspection form to be used and will generate with 15 days lead time and 14 days to be completed.

(3b.) The nuclear gauge audit and shutter inspection form has been modified to include the **gauge information label check**.

Response: (4.) The plant is in full compliance of 10 CFR 20.190(a).

B. Condition No. 16 of License No. 45-19889-01 requires that the licensee conduct a physical inventory every six months to account for all sources and/or devices received and possessed under the license.

Contrary to the above, the licensee did not conduct a physical inventory of its fixed gauges containing sealed sources from June 27, 1996 to May 14, 1997- a period in excess of six months.

Response: (1) The physical inventory was not conducted within the six month time frame due to a transition from one RSO, who resigned, to another RSO, at a time when the plant management was undergoing restructuring.

Response: (2.) The following corrective step and result are as follows:

The physical inventory was taken on May 15, 1997.

Response: (3.) The following corrective step has been taken to prevent further occurrences:

A PM was created in the Engineering Maintenance Management System (EMMS) that will automatically generate a work order every six months to complete the Nuclear Inventory, shutter, and Label check. This work order will be completed by the RSO of qualified Instrument and Electrical Technicians familiar with the nuclear gauge inspections.

Response: (4.) The plant is currently in compliance with Condition No. 16

- C. Condition No. 11 of License No. 45-19889-01, amendment No. 9, dated September 9, 1994, named Mr. Ronald Harper as Radiation Safety Officer.

Contrary to the above, between September 6, 1996, and May 22, 1997, the licensee did not apply to amend the license to list Mr. Rineker as the new Radiation Safety Officer after Mr. Harper's resignation. Amendment 10 naming Mr. Rineker as the Radiation Safety Officer was issued June 18, 1997.

Response: (1.) When the RSO named on the license resigned his position with Hoechst Celanese September 6, 1996, the responsibilities of RSO were temporarily assigned to the individuals named in Item 7 of the Application For Material License Renewal dated April 4, 1992. Due to re-engineering and restructuring of management, the individual responsible for naming the new RSO and applying for the amendment resigned. This resulted in a delay in filing an amendment naming the new RSO.

Response: (2.) The following corrective steps and results are as follows:

(2a.) When the oversight in filing the amendment was identified, management responded in an expedient fashion, sending an individual to the next available forty hour Radiation Safety Course at the Ohmart Corporation in Cincinnati, Ohio. When the individual had completed the course successfully the amendment application was sent to the NRC promptly. Materials License No. 45-19889-01, amendment No. 10, dated May 22, 1997, named an individual possessing the knowledge, skill, and familiarity to assume the responsibilities of RSO.

(2b.) Materials License 45-19889-01, amendment No. 10 naming Mr. Rineker as the Radiation Safety Officer was issued June 18, 1997.

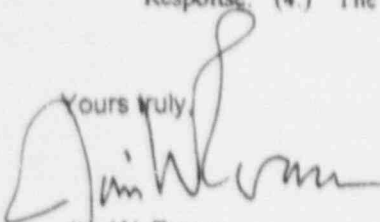
Response: (3.) The following corrective steps have been taken to avoid further violations.

(3a.) The plant has four individuals possessing a Radiation Safety Course Certification from the Ohmart Corporation. The RSO will schedule quarterly meetings with these individuals to maintain familiarity with the Radiation Safety Program.

(3b.) A letter of notification has been placed in the RSO's personnel record. This letter will serve as a notice to the Plant Manager upon termination of the RSO to amend the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Materials License No. 45-19889-01, condition No. 11 within no more than 30 days.

Response: (4.) The plant is currently in compliance with Condition No. 11.

Yours truly,


Jim W. Evans
Plant Manager

cc: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATT: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555