

January 12, 1998

Mr. Dennis Bittner
President
Bittner Engineering, Inc.
103 South 10th Street
Escanaba, MI 49829

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 030-30982/97002(DNMS)

Dear Mr. Bittner:

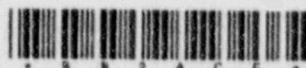
This refers to the inspection conducted on December 12, 1997, at Bittner Engineering, Inc., Escanaba, Michigan, with continued NRC in-office review through December 22, 1997. The purpose of the inspection was to review an event involving a dislodged source from your moisture/density gauge. The in-office reviews consisted of evaluation of the radiation dose assessment information that was obtained from you on December 19, 1997. The inspection findings and event details described in the enclosed inspection report were discussed with you at the conclusion of the inspection on December 22, 1997.

During the inspection period, your efforts to locate, control, and transfer the dislodged source to the manufacturer were thorough and comprehensive in protecting workers and the public from unnecessary radiation exposure. Fortunately, you had prevented unauthorized access to the soil lab during the eight-week period (October 15 through December 11, 1997) that the source was undiscovered. After the source was discovered, you provided necessary shielding posting, security, and notification of your employees and the adjacent tenant in the building. You also alerted the local public safety officials about the radiological conditions in the soil lab pending source transfer. In addition, you confirmed that the source did not leak radioactive contamination to the immediate surrounding area or to the environment. Finally, you completed a radiation dose assessment for your employee who unknowingly worked in the vicinity of the source. We agreed with your radiation dose assessment methodology and considered the assigned doses to be conservative and far below 10 per cent of NRC limits. The root cause, contributing factors, and concerns identified in the enclosed inspection report were not attributed to your actions. The NRC Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards also reviewed the circumstances of the loss of control of licensed material.

No violations of NRC requirements were identified during the course of this inspection. No reply to this letter is required.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

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D. Bittner

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We appreciate your cooperation extended to the inspector and we will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning these matters.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Geoffrey C. Wright, Chief
Materials Inspection Branch 2

License No. 21-26010-01
Docket No. 030-30982

Enclosure: Inspection Report 030-30982/97002(DNMS)

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