



Materials Inspection Record

1. Licensee Name: University of Minnesota		2. Docket Number(s): 030-00842		3. License Number(s) 22-00187-46	
4. Report Number(s): 2021-001			5. Date(s) of Inspection: November 15, 2021		
6. Inspector(s): Ryan Craffey		7. Program Code(s): 03620	8. Priority: 5	9. Inspection Guidance Used: IP 87126	
10. Licensee Contact Name(s): Brian Vetter - RSO		11. Licensee E-mail Address: vette001@umn.edu		12. Licensee Telephone Number(s): 612-626-6002	
13. Inspection Type:		14. Locations Inspected:		15. Next Inspection Date (MM/DD/YYYY):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Initial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Routine <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Announced <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Routine <input type="checkbox"/> Unannounced		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Main Office <input type="checkbox"/> Field Office <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Job Site <input type="checkbox"/> Remote		11/15/2026 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Extended <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced <input type="checkbox"/> No change	

16. Scope and Observations:

The University of Minnesota, a public institution with enrollment of approximately 50,000 students, maintained a limited-scope research and development license to use portable gauges at temporary job sites in NRC jurisdiction, and to use radiolabeled compounds aboard research vessels operating on waters in NRC jurisdiction. These activities were overseen by the University's Department of Radiation Safety (DRS) as part of its broad scope medical and research program. At the time of the inspection, one individual was authorized by an active permit to use portable gauges for agricultural soil moisture measurements, but had not used this material in NRC jurisdiction since before the last inspection. Another individual was still authorized by an inactive permit to possess material aboard the research vessels he managed. However, no individuals were currently authorized to perform the research. The last investigator with a permit to do so left the University in 2020, having last used material on a cruise in 2016.

The inspector met with DRS staff, including the RSO, at their office in Minneapolis to discuss the status of activities performed under the University's NRC license. The inspector reviewed the permits, protocols, and training for gauge use, as well as permits and survey records for use on research vessels.

The staff reported that the gauge authorized on the NRC license (a Troxler 4302) was shipped to the manufacturer in October 2020 for repairs, and was still there pending receipt of another 4302 for disposal which could be salvaged for parts no longer available. In the meantime, the investigator purchased another gauge (different make and model) for the research. The inspector reminded DRS staff of the need to obtain prior authorization for the new gauge if the investigator wished to use it in NRC jurisdiction. The inspector also confirmed that the original gauge had been leak tested prior to shipment and that it had been successfully delivered to the manufacturer.

From this review, the inspector identified one SLIV violation of 10 CFR 30.36(d)(3). The University last conducted principal activities under its NRC license on August 12, 2016, the day of the last routine inspection. By August 2018, none had been performed for a period of 24 months; however the licensee never notified the NRC of this occurrence.

The root cause of this violation was a lack of understanding of NRC requirements. DRS staff did not know that this requirement existed. As corrective action, the staff reviewed the relevant requirements with the inspector and submitted a notification of no principal activities to Region III MLB on November 16, 2021. The University was considering placing this license in standby, or requesting its termination and filing for reciprocity as needed using its State of Minnesota license instead.