GME®
GME TESTING

November 29, 2023

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
Region III
2443 Warrenville Road
Suite 210
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4352

RE: Response to the Apparent Violations in Report No. 03035029/2023001(DRSS);
EA-23-123 NRC Material License No. 13-32182-01

Mr. David Curtis,

Enclosed is our response to the Apparent Violations in NRC Non-Routine Inspection Report No. 03035029/2023001(DRSS).

If you have any questions regarding the attached response, please contact us at your convenience.

Sincerely,

GME Testing

Dina Sljivo
Radiation Safety Officer

Apparent Violations:

10 CFR 20.1802 – Requires, in part, that the licensee control and maintain constant surveillance of licensed material that is in a controlled or unrestricted area and that is not in storage.
10 CFR 30-34(i) – Requires that each portable gauge licensee use a minimum of two independent physical controls that form tangible barriers to secure portable gauges from unauthorized removal whenever portable gauges are not under the control and constant surveillance of the licensee.

Reason for Violation:

Complacency leading to individual human error was the cause for both violations. The gauge user involved in this specific incident, Mr. Alan Beck, had been properly trained on the use, transportation, and safety of portable nuclear density gauges prior to the incident. Mr. Beck submitted his resignation the week prior to the incident. Mr. Beck had been with GME Testing and an authorized gauge user for several years and became complacent with the safety and handling of the portable nuclear density gauge.

Corrective Steps That Have Been Taken:

Mr. Beck was suspended from operating a portable nuclear gauge for a minimum of 60 days and was required to retake the portable nuclear gauge safety class prior to operating a portable nuclear gauge again. Due to Mr. Beck's resignation, this suspension is indefinite. Furthermore, all current authorized gauge users were required to attend an internal refresher training meeting immediately following the incident. This refresher meeting thoroughly covered Operating, Transportation, Emergency, and Security procedures for nuclear gauges. Additionally, all authorized gauge users were required to demonstrate proper use, transport, and storage of the nuclear gauges as well as demonstrate their knowledge of proper emergency procedures.

Corrective Steps to Avoid Future Violations:

GME holds an annual refresher training meeting that covers operating, emergency, and security procedures. This refresher training meeting has been increased from an annual basis to a bi-annual basis (every six months). In addition to increased training, we have started conducting internal unexpected inspections on our gauge users, both at our licensed storage location and on temporary job sites. These unexpected inspections require the gauge user to demonstrate proper use, transportation, and storage of their nuclear gauge.

Date of Full Compliance:

We believe full compliance was achieved on April 5, 2023. This is two weeks after the date of the incident. Within these two weeks we conducted our refresher training meeting and required all users to demonstrate proper use and storage of nuclear density gauges with an emphasis on maintaining control and security of the gauge at all times when it being used, transported, and when it is in storage. We also put a procedure in place for conducting unexpected inspections on our gauge users and notified our gauge users of the new procedure.