

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Robert W. Kirkman, Director
Region I, Division of Compliance

DATE: December 13, 1962

FROM : Richard S. Cleveland, Radiation Specialist (Review)
Region I, Division of Compliance

SUBJECT: NRC EQUIPMENT CORPORATION, NEWTON HIGHLANDS,
MASSACHUSETTS - LICENSE 20-6439-1 - ALLEGATION
OF IMPROPER LABELING OF RADIUM SHIPMENTS TO SROO

Mr. D. C. Collins, Radiation and Health Branch, SROO, telephoned CO:I at 3:45 p.m., 12/12/62. Collins stated that he wished to bring our attention to what he felt was an undesirable situation with respect to shipments by NRC of radium containing equipment to SROO. He further said that he wished to keep this on an informal basis and preferred not to furnish this information in a written memorandum. He suggested that CO:I might possibly bring this matter to the attention of NRC by informal telephone discussions and, thereby, achieve correction of the situation.

Collins said he was concerned about repeated shipments of Alphasat gauges without NRC's placing any labels on the packages to indicate the presence of radioactive materials. He said that 3 shipments, received within the past year or so, including one of 4 gauges with .5 mc radium in each gauge, had been surveyed upon receipt and found to have gamma radiation levels of up to 20 mr/hr at 3" and 10 mr/hr at 1' from the packages. He felt that it was a clear violation of ICC regulations to ship such packages without appropriate warning labels being placed upon them. He said he was unsure as to whether ICC was in a position to take any action on this or as to whom should be

WKC 12/18

ITEM # 27

12/27

(2)

contacted in ICC regarding this matter. He did feel, however, that CO:I should be acquainted with this situation, in case NRC was also a licensee and might be making improperly labeled shipments of licensed radioactive materials as well. Collins mentioned that the shipments were sent to the Savannah River plant via commercial carrier (i.e., motor freight).

A review of the files indicated that NRC Equipment Corp. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Research Corp., Cambridge, Mass., Licenses 20-1465-4, -5, and -6. Our file on the latter company contains a memorandum dated 10/20/60 from Leo Dubinski, Inspection Division, OROO notifying this office of the receipt by NASA of a 375 mc tritium foil contained in an unlabeled and unmarked package from the latter firm. On 12/13/62 a telephone call was made to Mr. F. H. Greene, Vice-President and General Manager of NRC Equipment Corp. (Newton Highlands). It was pointed out to Greene that several complaints had been received alleging improper labeling of exterior packages of shipments made by his company. In addition, an inquiry was made as to the labeling practices employed by the NRC Equipment Corporation. Green stated that, to the best of his knowledge, the company had always strived to abide by pertinent regulations (AEC, ICC and State regulations). He added that the person responsible for the preparation of shipments was not in this week; however, the first of next week he would review the matter with this person and determine company compliance with regulations.

Greene stated that, upon completion of his review, he would notify this office in writing of his findings, noting any discrepancies found and relating to us corrective action that would be taken. Greene added that the radium was contained in a source holder which was labeled as to the type of material and contents, and that tritium, of which relatively few shipments had been made, was also contained in a source holder and similarly labeled.