

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
2101 NASA Parkway
Houston, Texas 77058-3696



July 24, 2015

Reply to Attn of: SD-15-085

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region IV
Attention: Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety
1600 E. Lamar Boulevard
Arlington, Texas 76011-4511

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Johnson Space Center (JSC), in accordance with Section 13F of its Nuclear Regulatory Commission License No. 42-09388-01, is providing notification that a leak test analysis revealed the presence of 0.005 microcurie or more of removable contamination from an Am-241 sealed source. The wipe was submitted to and the analysis done by Monitoring Services (license enclosed). On Saturday, July 18, Monitoring Services, JSC's leak test vendor, sent an e-mail notification to JSC which was received Monday, July 20, indicating that removable activity of 1.27E-1 was found. A second leak test was submitted to another vendor (license enclosed) and the presence of 0.005 microcurie or more of removable contamination was again found.

The Am-241 radioactive source was manufactured by General Nuclear, P.O. Box 34526, Houston, Texas, in 1971, and designated in JSC's inventory as Source No. 392. This 3/8" diameter source designed to be "used to calibrate X-ray detectors" had an original activity of 1 millicurie (mCi), now decayed to approximately 0.937 mCi. The source does not have a "model" nor a "serial" number. This source had been placed into storage in the mid-1990s and was not used until it was removed for required leak testing in 2005 and then was returned to storage. The source has not been removed for any use or activity until it was again removed in 2015 for leak testing. The source was not used after this most recent leak testing and has been returned to storage.

The already isolated Source No. 392 is now double-wrapped in plastic and remains in the Radiation Safety Office's controlled access facility. Since there is not a need demanding repair, JSC will proceed to review its options for disposal of this source to an authorized licensee recipient.

If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact me via e-mail at mary.vanbaalen-1@nasa.gov or via telephone at (281) 483-9998.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Van Baalen".

Mary Van Baalen, Ph.D., CHP
Radiation Safety Officer

Enclosures (2)