



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NATIONAL VEHICLE AND FUEL EMISSIONS LABORATORY
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OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
ATTN: GLTS
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

May 11, 2016

To whom it may concern:

As a general licensee, granted under Agilent Technologies' distribution license, in accordance with 10 CFR 31.5 notice is given of the discovery of a leaking source, radiation in excess of 5 nanocuries, during a routine wipe test performed on April 6, 2016. The source in question contains 15 millicuries of Nickel-63 within an electron capture detector (ECD) (model no: G2397A, serial no. U19946) housed on an Agilent 7890A gas chromatograph (serial no. US11421067) used for the analysis of greenhouse gases. Wipe test results were reported by NRD, LLC, Grand Island, NY, to the US EPA on April 12, 2016. A confirmatory wipe test was completed on April 14, 2016. All removable contamination was confined to the exit of the ECD. The exit is plumbed to the buildings scrubber via 3 feet of Teflon and 3 feet of stainless steel tubing. Upon receipt of the failed wipe test the Agilent 7890 GC was locked out-of-service and the entrance and exit of the ECD plugged. Wipes of the scrubber lines and stainless steel tubing did not show any removable contamination. The maximum removable contamination was 20.7 nanocuries.

A contract is in process with Agilent Technologies to remove and replace the ECD. Upon removal the ECD will be sealed in a plastic bag and prepared for shipment back to Agilent Technologies for disposition. Upon installation of the new ECD a wipe test will be performed prior to putting the instrument back into service. The Teflon and stainless steel tubing connecting the exit of the ECD with the building scrubbers will be placed in plastic bags, sealed and placed in sturdy corrugated cardboard box for disposition by our Safety Officer. A survey with a Geiger counter did not detect any radiation in the laboratory.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

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