



Georgia Institute of Technology

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BRANCH

To: R.A. Karam
From: B. Copcutt *B. Copcutt*
Subject: contamination in rm 128, Cherry Emerson Bldg.

The monthly research lab suveys were carried out in the Cherry Emerson Building (Biology Dept.) on Friday July 27th. The survey of room 128 revealed P-32 contamination at several spots on the floor, on the controls of a centrifuge, and in the sink drain (see attached survey map). An individual working in the room was checked for contamination and had very low levels of P-32 (just discernable from background) on her shoes. The shoes were decontaminated by radiation safety staff and returned to her. Other personnel who work in the area were checked for contamination and none was detected. Also observed were unlabelled radioactive waste containers and accumulation of waste causing high ambient dose rates.

Room 128 is used jointly by research staff under Dr. J. Choi and Dr. Dwight Hall. I spoke to both individuals on Friday and pointed out our survey findings. At that time I asked that work be discontinued and the room was posted as a "Contaminated Area" and locked for the weekend with rad. tape over the door.

On Monday Rodney Bauman and myself performed a complete decontamination of the room. Floors, counters and equipment were cleaned, radiation work areas were setup with spill pads and clear radiation markings, rad. waste storage areas were setup and all accumulated waste was removed and new containers supplied. Also, the requirement to "Frisk Upon Exit" was posted at the room doorway.

Tuesday, a meeting was held in room 128 attended by myself, Rodney Bauman., Drs. Choi and Hall and six graduate student workers who use the area (signature sheet attached). I reviewed the problems found in the lab and gave instruction in methods of contamination control, regulatory requirements, monitoring methods, etc. Drs. Choi and Hall outlined new procedures for keeping the room organized and clean and controlling waste accumulation.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Docket No. 50-160-REN EXHIBIT NO. 26

In the matter of Bauman

☐ Staff ☒ Applicant ☐ Intervenor ☐ Other

☒ Identified ☐ Received ☐ Rejected Reporter WCV

Date 5/2/96 Witness BC

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There is no evidence that skin contamination or ingestion of radioactive materials occurred. Urine samples from lab workers were collected on 7/31 - 8/2/90 and, when counted by liquid scintillation, showed no counts outside of background range (i.e. ± 2 standard deviations).

Within the next two weeks I will make an unannounced inspection of the lab to confirm that good work procedures are being continued. I will inform you if any further problems are found in this area.

cc: Nuclear Safeguards Committee