

DEC 01 1992

PQ Corporation
ATTN: Mr. Robert Nester
Senior Process Engineer
500 Swedesford Road
P.O. Box 840
Valley Forge, PA 19482

License No. 13-26362-01
Docket No. 030-32534

Dear Mr. Nester:

This refers to the initial safety inspection conducted by S. Wagner and B. J. Holt of this office on October 22, 1992, of activities authorized by NRC Byproduct Material License No. 13-26362-01, and to the discussion of our findings with Mr. Robert Wallace and Mr. Darrel Smith at the conclusion of the inspection.

The inspection was an examination of activities conducted under your license as they relate to radiation safety and to compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations and with the conditions of your license. The inspection consisted of a selective examination of procedures and representative records, observations, independent measurements, and interviews with personnel.

During this inspection, certain of your activities were found to be in violation of NRC requirements, as specified in the enclosed Notice. A written response is required.

In addition to the violations, we are concerned with the lack of visible identification on the gauges to indicate the content of radioactive material. Although the gauges are located in a corrosive environment which accelerates the degradation of labeling, it is important that proper visible labels are maintained. Please describe in writing how PQ Corporation will assure that visible radioactive labeling is maintained on the fixed gauges. This information should be submitted with your response to the enclosed notice.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's regulations, a copy of this letter, the enclosure, and your response to this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

The response directed by this letter and the accompanying Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

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We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this inspection.

Sincerely,

B. J. Holt, Chief
Nuclear Materials Inspection
Section 1

Enclosure: Notice
of Violation

cc w/enclosure:
DCD/DCB (RIDS)

RIII

Wagner/bt

11/12/92

RIII

Holt

12/1/92