

79-185-000 (m)

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20330



12 Dec 1979

REPLY TO
ATTN: AF

AFMSC/SGPZ
BROOKS AFB TEXAS 78235

SUBJECT:

Notification in Accordance with 10 CFR 21.

10.

Region 1, USNRC Office of Inspection and
Enforcement

Attn: Mr. Robert McClintock
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

1. Reference telephone conversation between Mr. McClintock and the undersigned at 0943 hours on 11 December 1979, subject: Possible non-compliance with 10CFR, Part 30, Section 30.19 (10 CFR 30.19), at Andrews Air Force Base, DC

2. The following information is provided as required in 10 CFR 21, Section 21.21 (b) (3):

a. Name and address of the individual informing the Commission:
Lt Col William B. Moyer, Secretary of the USAF Radioisotope Committee,
AFMSC/SGPZ, Brooks AFB, TX 78235

b. Identification of the activity which fails to comply:
76th Civil Engineer Squadron (CES), Andrews AFB, DC 20331

c. Identification of firm supplying the component which fails to comply:
Not applicable

d. Nature of the failure to comply and safety hazard created:
Mr. Robert Nelson, a civilian employee assigned to the 76 CES, disassembled a luminous emergency exit sign containing tritium gas. The glass tubes containing tritium were reassembled into another device designed and constructed by Mr. Nelson. Information currently available indicates that no glass tubes were broken, no tritium release occurred, and there have been no personnel exposures.

e. The date on which the information of failure to comply was obtained. I became aware that the 76 CES possessed tritium contained in a luminous device on 6 December 1979. However, I was not aware that the disassembly of the device had taken place until 10 December 1979.

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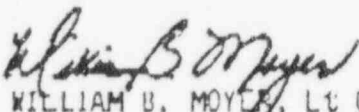
f. Number and location of components which fail to comply: Not applicable.

g. Corrective Action: The Andrews AFB Radiation Protection Officer (RPO) Capt John Clegg, who is assigned to the Malcolm Grow USAF Medical Center, Andrews AFB, DC has secured the radioactive materials under lock and key and has been instructed to investigate the activities in question and report his findings to the USAF Radioisotope Committee within 30 days. (See attached message)

h. Any advice given to purchasers or licensees: Not applicable.

3. The information contained in this report resulted from telephone conversations between Capt John Clegg and the undersigned. I do not personally believe there was a willful attempt on the part of Mr. Nelson, or any other Air Force personnel, to ignore any NRC regulations applicable to the activities in question.

4. Any questions concerning this report may be referred to me at (512) 536-3331.



WILLIAM B. MOYLER, Lt Colonel, USAF, BSC
Secretary, USAF Radioisotope Committee
Office of the Surgeon General

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Message 111721Z Dec 79

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11/72/2 Dec 79

FROM: AFMSC BROOKS AFB TX/SGP

TO: 76 ABG ANDREWS AFB DC/CC

INFO: HQ MAC SCOTT AFB IL/SGP/DEM

76 MAW ANDREWS AFB DC/CC

76 CES ANDREWS AFB DC/CC

MALCOLM GROW USAF MED CEN ANDREWS AFB DC/SG
H+ USAF SCOTT AFB DC/SG-11

SUBJ: USE OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL AT ANDREWS AFB DC

1. THE USAF RADIOISOTOPE COMMITTEE QUESTIONS THE LEGALITY AND SAFETY ASPECTS OF THE USE OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL WITHIN THE 76 CES AT ANDREWS AFB. SPECIFICALLY, WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT ACTIVITIES INVOLVING THE ASSEMBLY OF TRITIUM-ACTIVATED LUMINOUS DEVICES BY MR. ROBERT NELSON OF THE 76 CES/DEMRP. THESE ACTIVITIES WERE IN NON-COMPLIANCE WITH AFR 161-16, SINCE APPROVAL HAD NOT BEEN OBTAINED FROM THE USAF RADIOISOTOPE COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE BELIEVES THAT THESE ACTIVITIES MAY ALSO BE IN NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 10, CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, PART 30, SECTION 30.19 (10 CFR 30.19). IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE ALLEGATIONS OF DELIBERATE AIR FORCE NON-COMPLIANCE WITH NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) REGULATIONS, THE USAF RADIOISOTOPE COMMITTEE WAS NOTIFIED REGION I, USNRC OFFICE OF

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11 Dec 79
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INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THESE ACTIVITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH
10 CFR 21.

2. THE ABOVE DESCRIBED OPERATIONS BY 76 CES SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY
TERMINATED AND ASSOCIATED RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS PLACED IN STORAGE
UNDER SURVEILLANCE OF ANDREWS AFB RADIATION PROTECTION OFFICER (RPO)
UNTIL APPROVAL HAS BEEN OBTAINED FROM THE USAF RADIOISOTOPE COMMITTEE
AND THE USNRC, IF REQUIRED. THE RPO SHOULD CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION
INTO THE USE OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS BY THE 76 CES TO DETERMINE
WHETHER THESE ACTIVITIES CONSTITUTE "MANUFACTURING", "PROCESSING", OR
"PRODUCING" SELF-LUMINOUS PRODUCTS AS DESCRIBED IN 10 CFR 30.19. HE
SHOULD FORWARD THE RESULTS OF HIS INVESTIGATION TO THE USAF RADIO-
ISOTOPE COMMITTEE WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE RECEIPT OF THIS MESSAGE.
USING THE RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION, THE COMMITTEE WILL CONSULT
WITH THE NRC TO DETERMINE THE NEED FOR LICENSING.

3. THE 76 CES SHOULD BE ADVISED THAT THE POSSESSION, USE OR TEST-
ING OF ANY ITEMS CONTAINING RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL ON ANDREWS AFB
MUST BE COORDINATED IN ADVANCE WITH THE BASE RPO AND, IN MOST

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CASES, SUCH REQUESTS MUST BE FORWARDED BY THE RPO THROUGH COMMAND MEDICAL CHANNELS TO THE USAF RADIOISOTOPE COMMITTEE. THE 76 CES IS NOW PROHIBITED FROM POSSESSING, USING, OR TESTING ANY SUCH MATERIALS UNTIL THE PRESENT PROBLEMS ARE RESOLVED. THE 76 CES AND MR. NELSON MUST HAVE WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION FROM THE USAF RADIOISOTOPE COMMITTEE FOR ANY FUTURE USE OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS ON ANDREWS AFB.

4. QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE ABOVE SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO LT COL WILLIAM B. MOYER, SECRETARY OF THE USAF RADIOISOTOPE COMMITTEE, AUTOVON 240-3331.

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WILLIAM B. MOYER, Lt Col, USAF, BSC
AFMSC/SGPZ/3331/11DEC79

BRUCE P. GREGG, JR, LTCOL AFMSC/SGP/3360

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CASES. SUCH REQUESTS MUST BE FORWARDED BY THE RPO THROUGH COMMAND MEDICAL CHANNELS TO THE USAF RADIOISOTOPE COMMITTEE. THE 76 CES IS NOW PROHIBITED FROM POSSESSING, USING, OR TESTING ANY SUCH MATERIALS UNTIL THE PRESENT PROBLEMS ARE RESOLVED. THE 76 CES AND MR. NELSON MUST HAVE WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION FROM THE USAF RADIOISOTOPE COMMITTEE FOR ANY FUTURE USE OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS ON ANDREWS AFB.

4. QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE ABOVE SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO LT COL WILLIAM B. HOYER, SECRETARY OF THE USAF RADIOISOTOPE COMMITTEE, AUTOVON 240-3331.

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WILLIAM B. HOYER, Lt Col, USAF, BSC
AFMSC/SGP2/3331/11DEC79

DRUCE P. GREGG, JR, LTCOL AFMSC/SGP/3368

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