



February 1, 1993

Director
Office of Enforcement
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Re: Answer to a Notice of Violation
NRC Inspection Report
No. 52-17776-02/92-01

Gentlemen:

In reply to the Notice of Violation of reference and imposition of Civil Penalty of \$375.00 we are hereby admitting the alleged violations, as discussed in the Enforcement Conference on December 22, 1992 in San Juan, P.R. We enclose herewith a check for the amount of \$375.00 in payment of the civil penalty.

In the following paragraphs we discuss the corrective actions taken on each violation.

I- Failure to properly control licensed material in an unrestricted area against unauthorized removal (10 CFR 20.207 (a)).

One of our moisture density gauges was located in the back of our pick-up truck parked in front of the soil's technician residence in the street. Although the gauge's container was tied to the pick-up truck with a nylon rope, it was not locked and upon inspection by NRC'S Mr. Jay Henson (Nov. 17, 1992) the key to the gauge lock was in the container with the gauge.

II- Violation II-B (49 CFR 171.412 (b)) involves the transportation of the licensed material, in a Type A package which was not sealed to indicate whether the package has been opened by

9302120150 930201
PDR ADOCK 03020876
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*W/Check
\$375.00
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someone unauthorized. It is related to the same event involved in Violation I described above.

Upon discussion of these findings with Mr. Henson on telephone conference Nov. 23, 1992 we proceeded right away to review the safety procedures with our licensed technician regarding the securing of the gauges in the pick-up truck and within the transportation container.

Corrective measures were taken right away. We have provided locks and chains to secure & lock the gauge container to the pick-up truck, in addition to the rope which is used to prevent the container to move about the back of the truck.

The containers have two latches that can be locked with a pad lock. We have assured that all containers are locked up when being transported and have reviewed these safety precautions with our technicians who use these gauges.

The above described procedures were in effect previously but had not been reviewed periodically to emphasize that they be followed.

We had these corrective actions fully implemented by the time we met on December 22 at the Enforcement Conference, as reported at that time.

We have implemented a monthly review of these procedures to assure that our technicians follow them up and they become automatic procedures that they do routinely. In addition, a checklist is now used to assist in the daily procedures on the safety and use of the gauges. Random spot checks will be made by our supervisors.

Violation II.A involves failing to return the gauge to our office for overnight storage as had been stated in our February 23, 1984 letter, which is considered part of our statements and representations of the License No. 52-17776-02.

This violation is also admitted. The fact that we allowed the gauge to be stored at the technician's residence was not an intentional violation but rather our failure to have reviewed our statement made back in 1984 when all of our projects were in close proximity to our office in San Juan. Although our plans at that time had been as stated we now have a broader range of operation within PR and will need to request that the License be amended to reflect that we may have to store the gauges either in a project or at a technicians residence. To this effect we were informed of whom to write to request this modification and have initiated this request.

Since the November 23, 1992 discussion with Mr. Henson we have complied with our statements that the gauges be stored overnight at our office and will continue to do so until our License is amended to reflect authorization to store the gauges elsewhere.

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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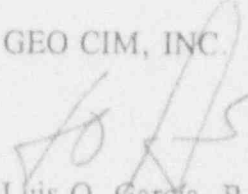
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As a closing statement we want to reaffirm our awareness of the importance of following the NRC procedures and regulations regarding safety of the gauges and will endeavor to maintain procedures and training so that our technicians follow them, as we sincerely expressed at the Enforcement Conference.

Please inform us if these are any further items that need to be discussed or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

GEO CIM, INC.


Luis O. Garcia, P.E.
Radiation Safety Officer

Enclosure

1. Check for \$375.00
2. Copy to: Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region II
101 Marietta Street No. W
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

L/NUCLEAR.VIO