

October 10, 1996

30-33959

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Document Control Desk  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Subject: REPLY TO A NOTICE OF VIOLATION

To Whom It May Concern,

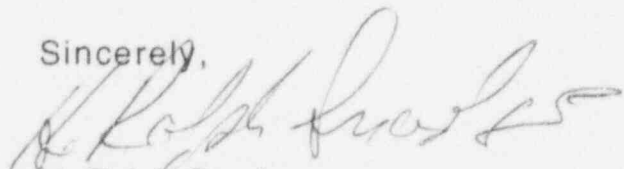
This letter is in response to a violation identified during an NRC inspection on August 8, 1996, with continued NRC review through September 17, 1996. Specifically, an attachment in our license (No. 34-26678-01) entitled Radiation Surveys states that "Because of the activities of the radionuclides, area wipes will be made monthly. These wipes will be counted in the Beckman liquid scintillation counter."

In anticipation of NRC license approval, we had a Beckman field service engineer inspect, calibrate, and certify our Beckman liquid scintillation counter. At some point after our NRC license was approved, we discovered a problem with the monitor on the instrument. As a result, we were unable to perform area wipes. Daily and/or weekly radionuclide ( $^{32}\text{P}$ ) monitoring was performed with a Ludlum survey meter until the instrument could be repaired.

The problem with the monitor was rectified on August 21, 1996 and monthly wipe tests were performed and documented in August and September. No radioactivity above background was detected for all wipe tests performed.

Should there be a similar occurrence in the future, we will ensure that (1) corrective actions will be prompt and (2) the NRC be notified immediately. Darrel G. Wiedeman, Senior Health Physicist, U.S. N.R.C. Region III, suggested that wipe tests to detect  $^{32}\text{P}$  contamination can be temporarily analyzed using a Ludlum survey meter and results recorded.

Sincerely,



H. Ralph Snodgrass  
Vice President, Research

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