

OCT 15 1996

Docket No. 030-28902

License No. 20-00320-21

Michael Johnson, Site Manager
E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company, Inc.
Medical Products/Imaging Systems
NEN Products
549 Albany Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02118

SUBJECT: INSPECTION NO. 030-23902/96-001

Dear Mr. Johnson:

This refers to the inspection conducted on July 15 and 16, 1996 at the above address. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether activities authorized by the license were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report.

Areas examined during the inspection are identified in the report. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observation of activities in progress. The inspection also included review and evaluation of the additional information requested during the inspection and submitted to the NRC in a letter dated August 27, 1996.

The radiation safety program at your facility is well-organized and provides for worker and public safety. The engineered systems and the management procedures for the handling, containment, and monitoring of processes involving radioactive materials are excellent. However, we are concerned that the number of individuals and the level of health physics expertise are decreasing in the radiation safety staff, and that these decreases have begun to impact the program as described in Section 4 of the report. Given the quantities and types of licensed materials used at your facilities, the radiation safety program requires sufficient resources to provide the high level of attention to detail and a thorough understanding of the health physics activities, including measurements and calculations, that ensure continued safety and protection of workers and the public.

Based on the results of this inspection, two minor violations related to recordkeeping were identified, which are described in the inspection report in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), NUREG 1600. Accordingly, while corrective action is required, no Notice of Violation is being issued for these inspection findings and no written response for them is required.

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M. Johnson
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However, as discussed in a telephone conversation between Leonard Smith of your staff and Betsy Ullrich of this office on October 9, 1996, we understand that you will review our dose estimate for a skin contamination incident described in Section 13.A and Attachment 1 of the enclosed report. We request that you provide a written response concerning the difference between the NRC and the duPont staff dose estimates, including a justification for the appropriateness of your estimate for beta attenuation by the T-shirt and laboratory coat.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

John D. Kinneman, Chief
Nuclear Materials Safety Branch 2
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No.: 030-28902
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Enclosures:

1. Inspection Report No. 030-28902/96-001
2. NUREG 1600 (Enforcement Policy)

cc w/enclosures:

Leonard Smith, Radiation Safety Officer
Louis Todisco, Safety and Environmental Affairs
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Distribution: w/enclosure 1

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