

October 28, 1996

Mr. Frank Vumbaco, Vice President  
Health and Safety  
Nuclear Metals, Inc.  
2229 Main Street  
Concord, Massachusetts 01742

SUBJECT: INSPECTION NOS. 040-00672/96-002 & 040-08866/96-002

Dear Mr. Vumbaco:

This letter refers to your October 8, 1996 correspondence, in response to our September 18, 1996 letter.

Thank you for informing us of the corrective and preventive actions documented in your letter. These actions will be examined during a future inspection of your licensed program.

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

Marie Miller

*for*  
Ronald R. Bellamy, Chief  
Decommissioning and Lab Branch  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket Nos. 040-00672  
040-08866  
License Nos. SMB-179  
SUB-1452

cc:  
Robert Hallisey  
Director  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Department of Health  
Radiation Protection Program  
305 South Street, 7th Floor  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

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Nuclear Metals, Inc.

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Betsy Harper  
Assistant Attorney General  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Department of the Attorney General  
One Ashburton Place  
Boston, MA 02108

Ray Gerke  
Concord Free Public Library  
129 Main Street  
Concord, MA 01742

Cynthia Weidner  
Environmental Analyst  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Department of Environmental Protection  
10 Commerce Way  
Woburn, MA 01801

Michael Moore  
Executive Director  
Concord Board of Health  
141 Keyes Road  
Concord, MA 01742

Mr. Frank Vumbaco  
Nuclear Metals, Inc.

-3-

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DATE	10/28/96		10/21/96		10/ /96		10/ /96

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NUCLEAR METALS, INC.

8 October 1996

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region I  
475 Allendale Road  
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415

Attention: Dr. Ronald R. Bellamy, Chief  
Decommissioning and Laboratory Safety Branch, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

References: License Numbers SMB-179 and SUB-1452 (Docket Numbers 040-00672 and 040-08866)  
USNRC Letter to NMI Dated 18 September 1996.

**Reply to a Notice of Violation**

Dear Dr. Bellamy:

This is in response to the Notice of Violation resulting from the inspection of 6-10 March 1996.

- (1) The number of documented weekly audits performed by the Health and Safety staff were less than the number required in the SMB-179 Condition 17 reference letter dated 17 February 1984.

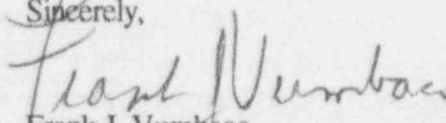
We take no exception to the findings detailed for this violation. Our description of the Health and Safety staff audits as contained within our most recent license renewal package best represents an effective audit structure based upon the present status of licensed operations at the facility. Until such time that this most recent renewal package is approved, our staff, which for years has been at half the size of the 1984 staffing level based on significantly reduced business volume, will be scheduled at the audit frequency described in the existing license.

- (2) The daily variance checks for the beta channel of a counting system was not performed during March-November 1995.

We take no exception to the findings detailed for this violation. The analytical printout of the specified counting system automatically and simultaneously issues an alpha as well as a beta result for each sample counted. The log book reviewed by the inspector only had the alpha results transcribed. Since the finding, both alpha and beta results, which have always been known to the daily auditor, are being entered into the logbook, and compared against established tolerance criteria.

If there are any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff.

Sincerely,

  
Frank J. Vumbaco  
Vice President, Health and Safety

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CC: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Document Control Desk, Washington, DC 20555 OCT 11 1996

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2229 Main Street, Concord, Massachusetts 01742 (508) 369-5410