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Mr. Arnie Ditmar, Plant Manager  
Shell Chemical Company  
2982 Washington Boulevard  
Belpre, OH 45714

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 030-05852/96-001(DNMS)

Dear Mr. Ditmar:

This refers to the NRC special inspection conducted on August 27, 1996, at your Belpre, Ohio facilities. The inspection was in response to a reported explosion and fire at your facility involving several fixed nuclear gauges containing cesium-137 located in the G-2 Finishing Building.

On August 26, 1996, NRC dispatched a Region III representative to evaluate and monitor the radiological consequences from this incident, your plans for contamination and radiation exposure control, and your plans to recover the malfunctioning gauges.

The enclosed report summarizes the results of the NRC inspection. No violations of NRC requirements were identified during the course of this inspection. We commend your radiation safety staff and the Ohmart representative for their diligent efforts in responding to this incident. As a result of these efforts, the two damaged nuclear gauges involved in the fire were recovered quickly and safely.

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 (PDR).

Should you have any questions concerning this letter or the enclosed report, please contact Mr. D. G. Wiedeman of my staff at (630) 829-9808

Sincerely,  
Cynthia Pederson, Director  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

License No.: 34-13012-01  
Docket No.: 030-05852

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report 030-05852/96-001(DNMS)

cc w/encl: M. Hershman, RSO  
George Brown, Ohmart Corporation  
Ohio Dept. Health

bcc w/encl: PUBLIC  
BBurgess, RIII  
JMadera, RIII

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November 5, 1996

Mr. Arnie Ditmar, Plant Manager  
Shell Chemical Company  
2982 Washington Boulevard  
Belpre, OH 45714

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Dear Mr. Ditmar:

This refers to the NRC special inspection conducted on August 27, 1996, at your Belpre, Ohio facilities. The inspection was in response to a reported explosion and fire at your facility involving several fixed nuclear gauges containing cesium-137 located in the G-2 Finishing Building. This also acknowledges receipt of your letter dated September 9, 1996, which satisfies the requirements in 10 CFR 30.50(c)(2).

On August 26, 1996, NRC dispatched a Region III representative to evaluate and monitor the radiological consequences from this incident, your plans for contamination and radiation exposure control, and your plans to recover the malfunctioning gauges.

The enclosed report summarizes the results of the NRC inspection. No violations of NRC requirements were identified during the course of this inspection. We commend your radiation safety staff and the Ohmart representative for their diligent efforts in responding to this incident. As a result of these efforts, the two damaged nuclear gauges involved in the fire were recovered quickly and safely.

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Sincerely,

Original Signed by Roy J. Caniano  
Cynthia D. Pederson, Director  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

License No.: 34-13012-01

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bcc w/encl: BBurgess, RIII J Madera, RIII  
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DATE	11/ /96	11/ /96	11/ /96	

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