

MERCK SHARP & DOHME RESEARCH LABORATORIES

DIVISION OF MERCK & CO., INC.

P.O. BOX 2000, RAHWAY, NEW JERSEY 07065-0900

June 7, 1985

LEON P. WASHUT

(201) 574-7935

Docket Nos. 030-14680
030-14845
030-17067
030-17552

License Nos. 29-00117-06
29-00117-07
37-01531-06
37-01531-08

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region 1
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Attn: Dr. John E. Glenn
Nuclear Materials Safety Section B
Division of Radiation Safety and
Safeguards

Dear Dr. Glenn:

Re: Inspection No. 85-01

This is our reply to the items cited by your Mr. T. Thompson regarding his observed and recorded Severity Level IV Violations observed on February 20, 1985. All items have been corrected and we are in full compliance.

REPLY DETAIL

Item A.(1)

The in-house application for the use of radiomaterials has been revised and re-edited to make a more inclusive statement. This new re-edited application will be distributed to all users and each completed form will be reviewed by the site Health Physics staff. To insure completion of the experience and training forms, all new employees are being required to fill out the form in person, in the Health Physics office, before their first purchase order for radiomaterials is approved.

Item A.(2)

The single observation of a radiochemist leaving a laboratory area without removing lab coat and booties does not reflect a general condition. The individual, who deviated from the normal practice has been reprimanded and reinstructed. His laboratory supervisor and the department director have also been notified.

Item A.(3)

Of the many survey meters in use at MSDRL, one was found to be overdue for recalibration. The meter has been calibrated and dated as per our standard operating procedure. Recalibration cycles are computerized and active.

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Item A.(4)

The Tritium Hot Laboratory referred to in Mr. Thompson's report is located in Building 80L, Room 102, not 80W, Room 206. Weekly surveys replacing monthly tests have been instituted. The radiochemistry area supervisor and the site RSO are enforcing same.

Item B

These laboratories and those adjacent to them have been surveyed at random times, usually monthly, and always at the quarterly in-house inspections, using a sensitive rate meter, by the resident RSO. NO reportable field values or contamination have been noted to date.

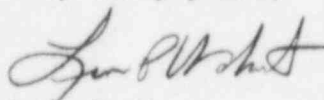
Wipe tests are a monthly requirement. The file from the laboratory reveals monthly wipe tests to have been performed with an omission in December 1984 and January 1985. This lapse was a most unusual event. The person assigned to perform these tests experienced an emergency situation and the lab supervisor failed to reassign the survey detail, so none were performed in December 1984 and January 1985. Since that time, wipe testing has resumed and copies are presently being sent to this office for verification. All lab supervisors have been notified to insure continuance of protocol regardless of any absenteeism of assignees. A posted checklist of these routine requirements has been placed in each laboratory.

Item C

Positive procedures have been initiated to insure pocket dosimeter calibrations. Pocket dosimeter calibrations are now performed quarterly at both MSDRL sites. Site RSO's control the process by issuing newly calibrated instruments to users at the time of expiration of those in use.

We appreciate the efforts of Mr. Thompson during his inspection and for his directing our attention to the minor, but important, discrepancies. We have re-investigated the items of concern and have made corrections and improvements.

Very truly yours,



Leon P. Washut
Senior Director of
Engineering & Administration

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