



**EDWARDS
PIPELINE
TESTING, INC.**

January 16, 1997

Branch Chief

Medical, Academic, and Commercial Use Safety Branch

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Washington, D.C. 20555

NRC License #35-23193-01

1:30 p.m., December 18th, 1996, Highway 51, Cushing, Oklahoma. Radiographer reported that source #CI0406 wasn't in the fully shielded position in SPEC Model 150 #443. Readings on the survey meter were normal, but source could not be cranked out, after release plunger was engaged. The cranks would not pull the source back any further into the camera, to release the lock. The radiographer thought that there was a possibility of ice in the camera, as wind chill factors on this day were well below Zero.

Upon arrival, the RSO found the camera locked, but still hooked up to the cranks and had been placed in the darkroom to warm. The RSO also found normal readings on his survey meter and made the determination that the source was in the fully shielded position. An attempt was made to disconnect the cranks from the camera. The control assembly adaptor would turn the required 45 degrees, but would not disengage from the camera. The radiographer was given a replacement camera and cranks so that he could continue his work day. Camera #443 was returned to the Tulsa shop, where it was determined that something had lodged between the silver conduit and the cable underneath the control assembly adaptor and would not let the cable go forward, nor the control assembly adaptor be disconnected from the pigtail of the source. A piece of plastic material, gray in color and approximately 1/4 inch long had been meshed into the cable. We believe this piece of material to be a section of the inside of the silver conduit being used on the SPEC cranks that had been sheared off as the cable was being cranked out, perhaps because of the temperature that day.

Personnel using this particular camera had 29 and 4 years experience. Both hold ASNT IRRSP certification and had received training on the SPEC 150 camera in May of 1996.

This particular silver conduit has been sent to Source Production for analysis. We have not received a copy of the report yet.

10 SPEC Silver Conduit were purchased on 6/22/96 upon recommendation (Spec Quiktip.150 sheet dated January 31, 1996 sent with each camera purchased) that the silver

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PDR RC *

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P.O. Box 470978

Tulsa, Oklahoma 74147-0978

918/627-1781

Fax 918/660-0001

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