

NMSS LICENSEE EVENT REPORT

License No. 08-01738-02

Docket No. 030-01317

MLER-RI 96-57

LICENSEE Department of Army (Walter Reed Army med CTR)

EVENT DESCRIPTION Lost/missing C-14 (1.1277 mi) + H-3 (1.9167 mi)

EVENT DATE ~~8/8/96~~ 7/8/96

REPORT DATE 10/1/96

1. REPORTING REQUIREMENT

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10 CFR 20.2201 Theft or Loss | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 CFR 35.33 Misadministration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 CFR 20.2203 30 Day Report | <input type="checkbox"/> Licence Condition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 CFR 30.50 Report | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

2. REGION I RESPONSE

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immediate Site Inspection | Inspector/Date _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Special Inspection | Inspector/Date <u>9/5-6/96</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone Inquiry | Inspector/Date _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Notification | <input type="checkbox"/> Daily Report |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Entered on the Region I Log | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Review at Next Routine Inspection | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Report Referred to _____ | |

3. REPORT EVALUATION

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Description of Event | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corrective Actions |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Levels of RAM Involved | <input type="checkbox"/> Calculation Adequate |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cause of Event | <input type="checkbox"/> Letter to Licensee Requesting Additional Information |

4. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR COMMENTS

Completed by Judith A. Jovstra

Date 1/21/97

Reviewed by [Signature]

Date 1/23/97

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(Revised 1/6/95)

9702100090 970123
PDR ADOCK 03001317
C PDR

IE72

HOSPITAL

EVENT NUMBER: 30955

LICENSEE: WALTER REED MEDICAL CENTER
CITY: WASHINGTON D.C. REGION: 1
COUNTY: STATE: DC
LICENSE#: 08-01738-02 AGREEMENT: N
DOCKET:

NOTIFICATION DATE: 09/04/96
NOTIFICATION TIME: 09:13 [ET]
EVENT DATE: 07/08/96
EVENT TIME: 08:00 [EDT]
LAST UPDATE DATE: 09/04/96

NOTIFICATIONS

DAVID SILK RDO

NRC NOTIFIED BY: COL. WILLIAM JOHNSON, USA
HQ OPS OFFICER: JOHN MacKINNON

EMERGENCY CLASS: NOT APPLICABLE
10 CFR SECTION:
BAB2 20.2201(a)(1)(ii) LOST/STOLEN LNM>10X

EVENT TEXT

EIGHT CARBON-14 SOURCES AND THREE TRITIUM SOURCES WERE FOUND TO BE MISSING FROM WALTER REED MEDICAL CENTER IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE SOURCES WERE LAST SEEN DURING THE PERFORMANCE OF A PHYSICAL INVENTORY CHECK THAT OCCURRED THE WEEK OF JUNE 24, 1996. THE SOURCES WERE LOCKED INSIDE A FREEZER LOCATED AT WALTER REED MEDICAL CENTER. THE TOTAL ACTIVITY OF THE EIGHT CARBON-14 SOURCES WAS 1.458 mCi AND TOTAL ACTIVITY OF THE THREE MISSING TRITIUM SOURCES IS 0.917mCi. THE EIGHT CARBON-14 SOURCES WERE IN A LIQUID FORM. THE MISSING RADIOACTIVE SOURCES WERE FIRST DISCUSSED AT A JULY 8, 1996, MEETING AT WALTER REED MEDICAL CENTER. THE RADIATION SAFETY OFFICER SAID THAT HE HAD JUST SIGNED SOME PAPERS TO PERFORM A FORMAL INVESTIGATION OF THIS EVENT AND THAT HE HAD BECOME AWARE OF THIS EVENT AT 0800 EDT ON SEPTEMBER 3, 1996.

OCT 22 1996

Docket No. 030-01317

License No. 08-01738-02

Colonel Michael J. Kussman
U. S. Army/Commanding Officer
Department of the Army
Walter Reed Army Medical Center
Washington, DC 20307-5001

SUBJECT: INSPECTION NO. 030-01317/96-001

Dear Colonel Kussman:

On September 5 - 6, 1996, Richard McKinley of this office conducted a safety inspection at the above address of activities authorized by the above listed NRC license. The inspection was limited to a review of the loss of control of radioactive material reported to the NRC on September 4, 1996. The findings of the inspection were discussed with Colonel John Pierce, at the conclusion of the inspection. This also refers to our telephone conversation on September 16, 1996.

Based on the results of this inspection, it appears that your activities were not conducted in full compliance with NRC requirements. A Notice of Violation is enclosed and categorizes each violation by severity level in accordance with "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," (Enforcement Policy), NUREG 1600. The NRC has concluded that information regarding the reason for the violation, the corrective actions taken and planned to correct the violation and prevent recurrence is already adequately addressed on the docket in your letter dated October 1, 1996. Therefore, you are not required to respond to this letter unless the description therein does not accurately reflect your corrective actions or your position. In that case, or if you choose to provide additional information, you should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter will be placed in the Public Document Room (PDR).

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C PDR

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

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RETURN ORIGINAL TO
REGION I

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IE:07

Colonel Michael J. Kussman
Department of the Army

-2-

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
Mohamed M. Shanbaky

Mohamed M. Shanbaky, Chief
Nuclear Materials Safety Branch 1
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No. 030-01317
License No. 08-01738-02

Enclosure:
Notice of Violation

cc w/enclosure:
Colonel William B. Johnson, Radiation Safety Officer
District of Columbia

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Department of the Army
Washington, DC

Docket No. 030-01317
License No. 08-01738-02

During an NRC inspection conducted on September 5 - 6, 1996 violations of NRC requirements were identified. In accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," the violations are listed below:

- A. 10 CFR 20.1801 requires that the licensee secure from unauthorized removal or access licensed materials that are stored in controlled or unrestricted areas. 10 CFR 20.1802 requires that the licensee control and maintain constant surveillance of licensed material that is in a controlled or unrestricted area and that is not in storage. As defined in 10 CFR 20.1003, unrestricted area means an area, access to which is neither limited nor controlled by the licensee.

Contrary to the above, on July 8, 1996, the licensee did not secure from unauthorized removal or limit access to 1.13 mCi of carbon-14 and 1.34 mCi of hydrogen-3 contained in vials located in a refrigerator/freezer in the hallway of Building 40 of WRAIR outside Room 1073, an unrestricted area, nor did the licensee control and maintain constant surveillance of this licensed material. These materials were lost.

This is a Severity Level IV violation (Supplement IV).

- B. 10 CFR 20.2201(a)(1)(ii) requires that each licensee shall report by telephone within 30 days after the occurrence of any lost, stolen, or missing licensed material becomes known to the licensee, all licensed material in a quantity greater than 10 times the quantity specified in Appendix C to part 20 that is still missing at this time.

Contrary to the above, the licensee did not report by telephone within 30 days after the occurrence of missing licensed material became known to the licensee on July 8, 1996. Specifically, upon discovery of the loss of 1.13 mCi of carbon-14 and 1.34 mCi of hydrogen-3 on or about July 8, 1996, the licensee did not report this loss to the NRC until September 4, 1996, a time period greater than 30 days.

This is a Severity Level IV violation (Supplement IV).

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RETURN ORIGINAL TO
REGION I

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Notice of Violation

-2-

The NRC has concluded that information regarding the reason for the violation, the corrective actions taken and planned to correct the violation and prevent recurrence is already adequately addressed on the docket in the letter dated October 1, 1996. However, you are required to respond to the provisions of 10 CFR 2.201 if the description therein does not accurately reflect your corrective actions or your position. In that case, or if you choose to respond, clearly mark your response as a "Reply to a Notice of Violation," and send it to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington, D.C. 20555 with a copy to the Regional Administrator, Region I, within 30 days of the date of the letter transmitting this Notice of Violation (Notice).

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

DCS No.:

03001317960904

Date:

September 4, 1996

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PN1-062

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region I staff on this date.

Facility:

Department of the Army
Walter Reed Army Medical Center
Washington, DC 20307-5001

Licensee Emergency Classification:

☐ Notification of Unusual Event
☐ Alert
☐ Site Area Emergency
☐ General Emergency
☒ Not Applicable

Docket No.: 030-0131701738

License No.: 08-01317-02

Event No.: None

Event Location Code: HOS

> 10X APPC

30 day telephone
30 day WRAIR

SUBJECT: ABSENCE OF 1.1277 MILLICURIES OF CARBON-14 AND 0.9167
MILLICURIES OF TRITIUM FROM LICENSEE STORAGE

On September 4, 1996, Region I was notified by the above licensee that approximately 1.13 millicuries of carbon-14 (C-14) and 0.92 millicuries of tritium (H-3) in 11 vials were missing from a locked refrigerator at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR). The licensee Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) was informed by his staff on August 30, 1996, that the vials had been missing since about July 8, 1996.

A researcher at WRAIR inventoried the C-14 and H-3 vials on June 24-25, 1996, in preparation for their transfer to another authorized user at WRAIR. Upon returning to the locked refrigerator on July 8, 1996, the researcher could not locate the vials but performed periodic searches within the Hematology Department. When the RSO's representative met with a representative of WRAIR on August 30 to transfer the material to another authorized user, the material could not be located. The RSO was informed of the quantities involved in the apparent loss of material on or about September 3, 1996, and reported the event to Region I the following morning.

Because the refrigerator was locked and the keys were accessible only to research personnel, the RSO believes that the vials were removed by another authorized user and either moved to another WRAIR location, or disposed of. The RSO has requested a formal investigation by WRAIR.

Region I has dispatched a regional inspector to review this event.

The District of Columbia and the State of Maryland have been notified.

The Region I Public Affairs Officer is prepared to respond to media inquiries.

Contact: Richard McKinley
(610) 337-5102

Mohamed Shanbaky
(610) 337-5209

LEP
needed
20.2201

9609050142 AP

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(Reactor Licensees)

** General list for sending PNs by FAX

Region I Form 83
(Rev. August 1996)