

**SILVER BOW PLANT**

119130 GERMAN GULCH ROAD
SILVER BOW, MT 59750

TEL: (406) 782-1215

FAX: (406) 782-4498

January 24, 1997

Mr. Bill Radcliffe
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region IV
611 Ryan Plaza, Suite 400
Arlington, Tx 76011-8064

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Mr. Radcliffe:

Attached you will find a copy of the recent memo we sent to the foreman and supervisors at the Silver Bow Plant reminding them about what we can and can not do with the equipment with nuclear devices.

Please call if you have anymore questions are need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'F.C. Balentine'.

F.C. Balentine
Environmental Manager

cc: File

9702100161 970124
PDR ADOCK 03019518
C PDR

RHÔNE-POULENC INC

Lic # 25-12507-02
Doc # 30-19518

IE07

E



MEMO

SILVER BOW PLANT

TO: R.E. Smith DATE: January 9, 1997

FROM: Cam Balentine

SUBJECT: Removal of scales or equipment with nuclear devices.


COPY: Eric Tilman Ed Messer
 Dan Bersanti Jim Campbell
 Jim Flamand Monte Marker
 Tom Goody Andy Neff
 Nelton Postma Kirk Peterson
 George Counter Eile

We just recently violated our Nuclear Regulatory Commission License by removing the Ronan level indicator on number 4 receiving tank. The conditions and requirements of our NRC License do not allow us to remove, repair, relocate, or service any of the nuclear devices at the Plant. Hopefully, the penalty will not be very severe or large.

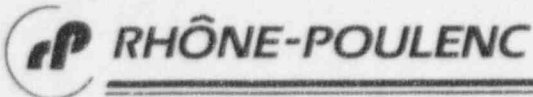
The primary purpose of this memo is to remind everyone again that we can not conduct any of the activities I just mentioned above on the Ohmart scales in the kilns or the Bethold density monitor at the roaster. The Ohmart scales are shut down and locked out now. If anything needs to be done with these units in the near future, please contact Eric or myself.

I am making the necessary arrangements with Ohmart to have a field representative help us remove their scales removed this summer, and prepare the Ronan unit and the Bethold unit for shipment.

Thanks.


F C. Balentine

COPY



SILVER BOW PLANT

119130 GERMAN GULCH ROAD
SILVER BOW, MT 59750

TEL: (406) 782-1215
FAX: (406) 782-4498

January 9, 1997

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region IV
611 Ryan Plaza, Suite 400
Arlington, Tx 76011-8064

CERTIFIED with RETURN RECEIPT

RE: Possible General License Violation

Dear Madam or Sir:

The purpose of this correspondence is to inform the NRC of a possible violation of the conditions of NRC License 25-12507-02 of Rhone-Poulenc Basic Chemicals Co., Silver Bow Plant, Silver Bow Montana. The incident involved the removal of a density level indicator, Ronan Model SRC-PT-CS-100, which contains a Ronan Cesium-137 sealed source, from a phosphorus sludge processing tank at the Silver Bow Plant. The density level indicator, which was not in service at the time of removal, was physically removed by maintenance workers during the week of December 2, 1996. The sealed source was shut down and shutter closed before the level indicator was removed from the tank. The level indicator is now securely locked out and stored on a pallet in a locked storage area in the Plant that has very limited access.

Upon learning about the situation, we determined that we may have violated item 14 of our NRC License which deals with the installation, removal, relocation, repairs, and maintenance of the devices, and felt that the NRC should be notified. Please feel free to contact me at 406-496-2221 at anytime concerning this issue.

Sincerely,

Cam Balentine
F.C. Balentine
Radiation Safety Officer

cc: Dan Bersanti

470121055H IP

IE07