

November 19, 1996

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ATTN: Mr. Jeffrey A. Dodd
303 Methodist Building
Wheeling, WV 26003

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 999-90002/96-08

Dear Mr. Dodd:

On October 7-8, 1996, the NRC completed an inspection at the Herman Strauss Industries (HSI) facility at Thirty-fifth & McColloch Streets, Wheeling, West Virginia. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection, which were discussed with you on October 8, following the inspection.

During the inspection, HSI employees were interviewed, HSI facilities were examined, and direct measurements were obtained in and around the area where HSI stored two unidentified radiation sources. Based on those discussions, examinations, and measurements, the inspector determined that the two sources were properly secured and that there were no immediate hazards to the public health and safety.

Subsequent to the inspection, an EPA contractor used a portable gamma spectroscopy instrument to identify the radionuclide and activity of the sources. The contractor determined that the sources were Radium-226 (Ra-226), with a combined activity of approximately 1.5 millicuries. As discussed with you on October 10, 1996, the NRC does not regulate the use of Ra-226 and therefore the EPA remains the lead agency for any further Federal response.

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.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact us.

Sincerely,

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John P. Potter, Chief
Materials Licensing/Inspection Branch 2
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No.: 999-90002
License No.: N/A

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report
No. 999-90002/96-08

cc w/encl: State of West Virginia
Herman Strauss Industries

Distribution w/encl: (See Page 2)

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

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