

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION I

Report No. 30-13573/85-01

Docket No. 030-13573

License No. 37-17860-01

Priority I

Category B

Licensee: Permagrain Products, Inc.

22 West State Street

Media, Pennsylvania 19063

Facility Name: Radiation Process Center

Inspection At: Reactor Road, Karthaus, Pennsylvania

Inspection Conducted: June 1, 1985

Inspector: F. Costello  
F. Costello, Senior Health Physicist

9/11/85  
date

Approved by: J. Kinneman  
J. Kinneman, Chief  
Nuclear Materials Section A

9/11/85  
date

Inspection Summary: Inspection on June 1, 1985 (Report No. 30-13573/85-01).

Areas Inspected: Special, announced inspection of the licensee's response to a tornado which struck the facility on May 31, 1985.

Results: No violations were identified. No radiological threat to either onsite or offsite personnel was created by the tornado.

## DETAILS

### 1. Persons Contacted

A. E. Witt, Ph.D., President  
L. Griest, Plant Manager  
R. Keller, Security Guard  
J. Lowry, Production Technician  
P. Rowles, Health and Safety Supervisor  
H. Brandt, Research and Development Engineer

### 2. Incident Response

At 7:00 a.m. on June 1, 1985, the Region I Duty Officer was informed by the NRC Headquarters Duty Officer that the Permagrain Products facility near Karthaus, Pennsylvania had been reported by the licensee at 2:30 a.m. as having being damaged by a tornado which struck the area at approximately 8:00 p.m. on May 31, 1985. A Region I inspector was sent to the site and he arrived there at 1:40 p.m. on June 1 to perform a special inspection.

The inspector toured the facility and interviewed licensee personnel. The licensee representative stated that it possesses approximately 150,000 curies of cobalt-60 in an underwater irradiator and also has several hot cells contaminated with cobalt-60 and strontium-90. A review of the licensee's stack sampling data records indicated that no releases of radioactive material had occurred. The inspector observed that the pool containing the cobalt-60 irradiator was unaffected by the tornado. The inspector noted that the damage to the facility consisted of structural damage to the building. Licensee representatives stated that there had been a small fire which resulted from damage to a transformer. Licensee representatives stated that the fire was extinguished by licensee personnel. From interviews with those at the site at the time the tornado struck, the inspector determined that no injuries had occurred to either of the two licensee personnel at the site at the time of the tornado.

The inspector determined that no licensed materials had been disturbed by the tornado and that no radiological threat to either onsite or offsite personnel had been created.

### 3. Confirmation Measurements

The inspector took radiation measurements throughout the licensee's facility and noted no abnormal dose rates. The inspector took two particulate filters which had been used to sample the licensee's effluent during the incident. These were analyzed in the NRC Region I laboratory. The results of this analysis were in agreement with the licensee's analysis and confirmed that no releases of radioactive material had occurred during the incident.

No violations were identified.

4. Exit Interview

The inspector met with the licensee president at the conclusion of the inspection to summarize the scope and findings of the inspection.