

April 11, 1997

D.C.P.

30-35740

David Kee, Division Director
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region V
Air and Radiation Division
AR-18J
77 West Jackson Blvd
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Kee:

This refers to an NRC inspection conducted at WCI Steel Incorporated (WCI) located in Warren, Ohio where it was reported that steel contaminated with cobalt-60 was manufactured and distributed to Liberty Steel, North Jackson, Ohio and subsequently distributed to other end users. Contaminated scrap steel (reading 30uR/hr - (background 5uR/hr)) had set-off radiation detectors at Bethlehem Steel in Steelton, Pennsylvania.

WCI is an NRC licensee authorized to possess and use various gauging devices containing radioactive material, including 48 cobalt-60 sources used to detect failed refractory brick. The NRC inspection at WCI determined that all licensed material possessed by the steel company, including the 48 cobalt-60 sources were accounted for on the date the contaminated steel was manufactured. The inspection could not determine the source of the cobalt-60 contaminated steel which originated at WCI.

During a telephone conference held on March 31, 1997, between Mr. Jim Mitchell of your staff and Mr. George Parker of my staff, the issues surrounding the contaminated steel were discussed. Since the source of the cobalt-60 contamination could not be determined, this case was formally referred to the Federal EPA per our Interagency Memorandum of Understanding for any additional action which may be required by your agency.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions and/or if you need clarification on any of the above information, please contact John Madera at (630) 829-9834 or George Parker at (630) 829-9869.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by Roy J. Caniano

Roy J. Caniano, Acting Director
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

cc: F. Costello, NRC-RI
J. Mitchell, EPA-RV

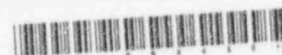
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