

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Files *6mm*
THRU: P. R. Nelson, Senior Radiation Specialist
Region I, Division of Compliance

FROM : Charles E. Coner, Radiation Specialist *Charles E. Coner*
Region I, Division of Compliance

DATE: June 6, 1966

SUBJECT: WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC CORP.
LAMP DIVISION
BLOOMFIELD, NEW JERSEY
LICENSE NUMBERS: STB-467 and SMB-353

Safety Evaluation

The licensee uses approximately 1200 lbs. of thorium compounds per year. It is handled under reasonably well controlled conditions. They are aware of the potential hazards from thorium and adequately instructed in safe handling procedures.

The Bloomfield Works has a long history of noncompliance but following each inspection they have taken the indicated remedial action. What they have not understood is that it is not sufficient to simply respond affirmatively to the Commission's citations. The Commission does not have the responsibility for managing their program, and in fact could not, on the basis of a two-day evaluation every three years.

I hope I convinced the Works manager and the Safety Engineer that it is Westinghouse's responsibility to protect its employees and the public from radiation hazards resulting from their use of thorium, and to maintain records that will permit the Commission to judge the effectiveness of their safe handling procedures. The touchstone of such a program is evaluation of hazards and this is where they failed, in the past instance and in the present.

I did not cite the licensee for failure to conduct bioassays for these reasons: In view of the deletion of the requirement from the present license I think it would lead the licensee to believe the Commission was a "house divided". I also believe that an effective air sampling evaluation will provide them with an adequate monitoring system.

I did not cite the licensee for noncompliance with 20.103(a) or 20.106(a). With respect to 20.103(a) I computed the exposures for operator's "C", "D", and "E" in Section 343 and found that the average weekly concentrations were approximately 2 times the MPC in April 1964. However, when I found that Speicher was defining a curie of thorium as 3.7×10^{10} dis/sec vs. 7.4×10^{10} dis/sec and in view of the possibility that he collected samples were not exclusively thorium in equilibrium with its daughter products, I concluded that a citation would be inappropriate.



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