

HEKA ASSOCIATES

ENGINEERS • ARCHITECTS • PLANNERS

p.o. box 31318 executive plaza*
billings, montana 59107 airport industrial
park
(406) 245-6354 259-1993

September 7, 1978
GO

Mr, Glen D. Brown, Chief
Fuel Facility and Material
Safety Branch
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76011

Re: License No. 25-17492-01
Letter of August 21, 1978

Dear Mr. Brown:

This is the required response to your above-referenced letter regarding corrective actions to non-compliance items delineated therein.

1. Two corrective measures are being taken on this item. First we are preparing an amendment to our license deleting the words, "in the physical presence of". We believe our training of employees, both in the use and safety of the devices we use, should be sufficient. It would be physically impossible for our safety officer to be "in the physical presence of" the operators of two different devices at the same time. In the instance cited by Mr. Wilborn, summer employees were using the nuclear gage on construction of runway 9 at Logan International Airport. Due to the fact that our office is at the other end of this runway (RW27) we did not set up a field office on this project. Our office is leased from the City of Billings and located on airport property. Since there is a security fence between our office and the runway itself, Mr. Wilborn judged this to not be, "in the physical presence of", the project manager (who is the individual designated by our safety officer, John Boring). Our project manager was on the construction site for a good portion of each working day and during the remainder of that day was in our office performing related duties.

Secondly, according to Mr. Wilborn, it is not as difficult to become licensed as an instructor for an operating and safety training course as we had been led to believe. We will, therefore, be writing to you separately to have our safety officer registered with NRC as an instructor.

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The situation (and employees involved) will no longer exist. The two employees involved are Civil Engineering students and will leave our employment on September 8, 1978, to return to school. Hopefully by next summer, we will be in a position to train summer-help employees properly and the situation will not recur.

2. One sealed source was purchased and delivered to us just this spring. This unit is not involved. You may be interested that a leak test was performed on this unit and sent to Troxler Laboratories for testing at the end of five months in August, 1978. The other unit which we purchased and was delivered in the summer of 1977, was in storage after October, 1977, and due to a shift in assignment of responsibility as safety officer, was not leak tested at the required six-month interval. It was leak tested by Troxler Laboratories prior to service this summer. Unfortunately, the results had not been reported to us at the time of Mr. Wilborn's inspection. We now have the results in our possession so we assume this matter is taken care of.
3. The doors to the storage area where our sources are located are sliding panel doors. We have not as yet learned how to arrange the locking mechanism or what type to use to properly secure this storage area. We have contacted a locksmith for his advice and are arranging to obtain locking devices. This should be accomplished by October 1, 1978.
4. As pointed out in your letter, this item was taken care of during Mr. Wilborn's inspection and requires no comment.
5. This item is a matter of judgment on Mr. Wilborn's part and we disagree with his conclusion in part. We have in our files copies of the order, shipping order and delivery tickets from Troxler Laboratories. Unfortunately the units were delivered to our office on a Saturday and received by an employee who happened to be here. He signed the delivery ticket, but there is no date on the ticket. We believe this constitutes "maintenance of records". Mr. Wilborn believes that the date of actual delivery must be on the delivery ticket to comply with "maintenance of records". There is no way we could determine the actual date of delivery at this time with any degree of accuracy. Therefore, we cannot provide a date of anticipated compliance on this item.
6. A copy of a typical notice was provided to us by Mr. Wilborn. Necessary information (license number and location of documents) has been entered and this notice now properly posted.
7. A copy of "Notice to Employees" was also provided to us by Mr. Wilborn. Copies of it have been made and properly posted.

September 7, 1978

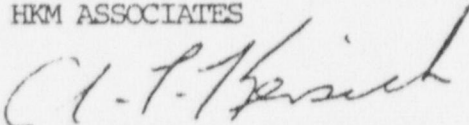
We would like to conclude this letter with a few comments regarding regulation compliance, the inspection and Mr. Wilborn. Mr. Wilborn conducted the inspection in a manner we believe proper. We learned answers to several questions regarding regulations and acceptable compliance. He was helpful by providing copies of "notices" for posting. As with most governmental agency regulations there are many questions about interpretation and practice. Mr. Wilborn was very helpful in answering most of our questions.

We have a suggestion to offer. This is specifically in regard to Items 6 and 7 above (posting of notices). When we read the "fine print" of Part 19 (Note following 19.11(c)) in detail, we learned notices can be ordered. Our suggestion is that these items, as well as any other information, i.e. Title 10 Parts, changes and other pertinent safety information we should be aware of, should be compiled into a standard packet of information and automatically mailed to anyone applying for a license.

We appreciated the opportunity of the inspection, and further, this opportunity to express our beliefs and suggestions. We hope the responses contained herein are satisfactory and that we are no longer in non-compliance.

Sincerely,

HKM ASSOCIATES



A. T. Kersich, P.E.
President

JB/jl