



January 24, 2022  
CJW:22:002

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attn: Document Control Desk  
Director, Office of Nuclear Material  
Safety and Safeguards  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Washington, D.C. 20555

**Subject: 60-Day Report to December 20, 2021 Incident Concurrently Reported per 10 CFR 70 Appendix A (c) (NRC Event No. 55666); Framatome Richland Facility; License No. SNM-1227; Docket No. 70-1257**

On December 20, 2021, the Framatome Richland facility concurrently reported to NRC that it had been made aware of a leaking sealed source.

The initial report was made because the event required reporting to the Washington Department of Public Health and concurrent reporting to NRC was required.

This 60-day report is submitted to comply with 10 CFR 70.74(b).

#### Caller Identification

The condition was reported to the NRC Operations Center by Calvin Manning, Framatome Manager of Licensing and Compliance, on December 20, 2021 at 1726 ET. Mr. Manning's telephone number is (509) 375-8237.

#### Date, Time, and Exact Location of Incident

The reportable condition was created on December 20, 2021 at approximately 0920 PT. The location of the source at the time was the Qal-Tek Associates facility in Idaho Falls, ID.

#### Incident Description

On December 20, 2021, at 0920 Pacific Time, Framatome received notification that a sealed source which had been removed by a waste broker (Qal-Tek) had failed a leak test.

The source, an acrylic rod type made June 1986 and containing at that time 5 mCi of Cs-137, had been stored at Framatome in a shielding pig for many years. Leak tests had been performed on the storage pig as required by Framatome's radioactive materials license, most recently on November 12, 2021. The waste broker performed a confirmatory leak test on the storage pig on November 22, 2021 and removed the source from the Framatome site. All leak tests performed by Framatome and the waste broker indicated that there was less than 0.005 microcurie of removable contamination on the outside of the storage pig.

The source was removed from its storage pig at the waste broker's facility in a controlled environment at which point a sample of the bare source indicated a removable beta activity of 0.015 microcurie. Upon discovering the leak, the waste broker placed the leaking source in a sealed container and decontaminated the inside of the storage pig.

The leaking source was coated in epoxy to stop the leak and will be included as planned in a bulk waste disposal by Qal-Tek.

#### Health and Safety Consequences

No actual health or safety consequences were realized as a result of this incident. No contamination existed on the exterior of the source shielding. Potential health and safety consequences from a leaking source include contamination of personnel and facilities.

#### External Conditions

No significant external conditions were identified.

#### Status of the Event

The event is over and all needed remedial actions are complete.

#### Notifications to Other Agencies

The Washington Department of Health was notified of the event.

#### Inclusion in Integrated Safety Analysis

Not applicable. The Cs-137 source is not licensed under 10CFR70.

#### Probable Causes of Event

Normal wear and aging of the source is the likely cause of the leak.

#### Corrective and Mitigating Actions

Corrective actions include the epoxy fixation of the source to prevent further leaks.

Preventive Actions

No preventive actions are required. The source was correctly stored and shipped, and the leak of a source already in the waste stream does not require preventive actions beyond what are provided by standard leak testing and waste handling procedures.

If you have questions about this incident or Framatome's response, please contact me by phone at (509) 375-8146.

Sincerely,



Colin J. Weber, Health Physicist  
Environmental, Health, Safety and Licensing

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