

December 21, 1999

Gary W. Olmstead, Ph.D.  
Director of Safety and Environmental  
Management  
General Mills, Inc.  
General Offices  
Post Office Box 1113  
Minneapolis, MN 55440

SUBJECT: REPORT OF LOST STRONTIUM-90 THICKNESS/DENSITY DEVICES

Dear Dr. Olmstead:

Thank you for your September 24, 1999 letter notifying NRC Region III of the loss of six strontium-90 sealed sources contained in stainless steel thickness/density gauges. Each source had a nominal activity of 500 microcurie (18.5 megabecquerel).

The thickness gauges were manufactured by Adaptive Technologies, Incorporated (Model AT-100S, Serial Nos. 0030034 through 0030039) and used in your facility in Covington, Georgia. When the production line was dismantled in 1995, the gauges were placed in a storage location along with other equipment. Some of the equipment was later distributed to Minneapolis, Minnesota, and other facilities. You stated that you have conducted a detailed search for the gauges at your facilities in Covington and Minneapolis without success. Interviews of present and former employees also proved unsuccessful. Independent consulting experts were also hired and concluded that the generally licensed gauges were lost. We have reviewed your proposed corrective action to ensure against recurrence of the loss of licensed material and have no further questions at this time.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ G. C. Wright

Geoffrey C. Wright, Chief  
Materials Inspection Branch

Docket No. 9999003  
General Licensee 10 CFR 31

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