

Bldg 37A  
Evans

AUG 11 1972

Gen W. Roy, Chief, Materials & Fuel Facilities Branch  
Directorate of Regulatory Operations, HQ

RO INQUIRY REPORT NO. 72-01  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY ELECTRONIC COMMAND  
FORT MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY 07703  
LICENSE NO. 29-1022-06  
LEAKING SOURCE - 7.2 CI PO-210

REFERENCE: Licensee report of March 8, 1972 to Director of  
Materials Licensing

The licensee reported that the leaking source resulted in slight con-  
tamination to equipment, but not to personnel. Region I concluded  
that no health and safety problem resulted.

Since the report was adequate and further inquiry was not believed  
necessary, an inquiry report is not being submitted.

Further review of this matter will be conducted during the next in-  
spection scheduled during the first quarter of 1974.

Paul R. Nelson, Chief  
Radiological & Environmental  
Protection Branch

cc: RO Files

Information in this record was deleted  
in accordance with the Freedom of Information  
Act, exemptions 6  
FOIA-2006-0238

HH/6

OFFICE ▶	RO					
SURNAME ▶	<i>Nelson</i> Nelson:dw					
DATE ▶	8-10-72					

CO: I

Your Ref: AMSEL-TL-NC

29-1022-6

MAR 16 1972

Department of the Army  
ATTN: Mr. Wolfgang J. Ramm  
Radiological Protection Officer  
Headquarters United States Army Electronics Command  
Fort Monmouth, New Jersey 07703

Gentlemen:

Thank you for your letter of March 8, 1972, reporting the detection of leakage from a polonium 210 sealed source.

So that our records will be complete, we would appreciate your completing those portions of the enclosed forms which we have marked and returning one copy of the completed form to us.

Very truly yours,

Gen W. Roy, Chief  
Materials and Fuel Facilities Branch  
Division of Compliance

Enclosure:  
Leaking Source Forms

bcc: w/cpy ltr dtd 3/8/72  
PDR  
NSIC  
SLR  
DML:MB  
Leaking Source File

CO: I ✓  
DR Central File

OFFICE ▶	CO	CO				
	TWBrockett:ako	GWRoy				
SURNAME ▶						
DATE ▶	3/14/72					

AMSEL-TL-NC

8 March 1972

SUBJECT: Leaking Polonium Source

Director  
Division of Materials Licensing  
US Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington, DC 20575

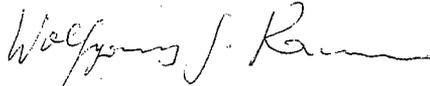
1. Under A.E.C. License 29-1022-6a 7.2 curie polonium 210 sealed source was being used in laboratory room 26, building 45, Evans Area, Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. The source is a Monsanto Research Corporation MRC-A-SS-P-Po No. 391 Assay, Sept 12, 1969.

2. On 3 March 1972, the source was removed from the authorized storage vault for use by

Prior to use, *Ex 6*  
the source exterior (excluding window area) was wiped. The smear indicated no contamination. The source was then placed in a sealed infrared cell, modified to serve as an ionization chamber, the fill gas was flowing argon at a very slow rate so that pressure in the chamber was very slightly above normal atmosphere. Under the conditions of the experiment a spark was observed and the cell was immediately sealed (gas flow cut off). A check of the flow-rate indicator with a Baird atomic 420E detector indicated the presence of contamination. A small area on the bench near the flow-rate indicator also showed activity, using same instrument. Wipe test values of these areas were: (a) bench, farthest away from flow-rate indicator - 74 counts/min; (b) bench, adjacent to flow-rate indicator - 540 counts/min; (c) gas cell outlet stopcock - 580 counts/min; and (d) tubing from outlet to gas-flow indicator (end closest to indicator) 66 counts/min a background of about 29 counts/min has to be subtracted from the above readings.

8 March 1972

3. All active areas were decontaminated so that readings with Baird Atomic 420E indicated no activity, wipe tests showed no contamination. Survey of the entire area was conducted with the above instrument and also a Nuclear Chicago Model 2672 air proportional survey meter and no further contamination was observed.
4. Personnel were checked for contamination and none was found.
5. The source will be removed from cell and disposed of. The cell will be de-contaminated, if possible.



WOLFGANG J. RAMM  
Radiological Protection Officer  
US Electronics Technology & Devices Laboratory  
USAECOM