



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

May 31, 2002

Dr. William J. Madia
[]
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
P.O. Box 2008
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-6255

Subject: Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) Enforcement Letter

Dear Dr. Madia:

The Office of Price-Anderson Enforcement (OE) has conducted a preliminary evaluation of the deficiencies described in Noncompliance Tracking System (NTS) report NTS-ORO--ORNL-X10PHYSICS-2002-0001. Our evaluation included review of the investigation report, associated corrective action plan, and discussion with site personnel.

The subject NTS report described a series of deficiencies that resulted in several personnel being exposed to unanticipated radiation fields during the startup testing of an electron cyclotron resonance (ECR) source at the [facility]. The exposures occurred during December 13-26, 2001. As a result, five ORNL Physics Division employees were evaluated as having received radiation exposures. The maximum individual exposure received during the event was minor (35 millirem); however, this was fortuitous and exposures could have been significantly higher.

Upon identification of the exposure hazard, the ECR source test stand was shut down and an ORNL Management Review and dose reconstruction were initiated. Noncompliances were identified associated with procedural requirements for the review of new or modified experiments. Specific deficiencies were also identified associated with hazard identification and communication, management control and oversight of work activities, use of personnel dosimetry, and radiological training.

OE has concluded that potential violations of 10 CFR 830.120 and 10 CFR 835 did occur in association with this event. OE also noted that your investigation into the event was detailed and comprehensive. Organizational and management concerns that may have contributed to the event were acknowledged by senior management. The developed corrective actions were found to address the identified concerns on multiple levels.

In recognition of the comprehensive scope of your investigation and corrective actions, OE has determined further investigation by our office is not warranted. OE, in

conjunction with the DOE-Oak Ridge Operations Office, will continue to monitor completion of the corrective actions.

No response to this letter is required. Should you have any questions, please contact Tony Weadock at (301) 903-4283.

Sincerely,



R. Keith Christopher
Director
Office of Price-Anderson Enforcement

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