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CENTRAL FILES

MA.116

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F2-1-1-9

July 13, 1956

NLO

TRIP REPORT TO LA POINTE MACHINE TOOL COMPANY, HUDSON, MASSACHUSETTS ON
JULY 9, 1956

J. A. Quigley, M.D.

F. W. Boone

Objective of Trip

The purpose of visiting this company was to conduct a contamination survey on equipment previously used by ~~MEC~~ personnel on a test with uranium metal, and to supervise the decontamination of this equipment if necessary.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The equipment involved (one broaching machine and one arbor press) and the surrounding area were found to be only very slightly contaminated, presumably due to the tests in February. Although no contamination check was made at that time, precautions had obviously been taken to prevent contamination of the area and a good job of cleaning up done after the test. It would be wise, however, to eliminate such situations in the future by having an Industrial Hygiene representative accompany Technical Division personnel on such tests.

Background for Trip

In February of this year a test was conducted with uranium metal at the La Pointe Machine Tool Company by Mr. J. Farr of the Technical Division with no Health & Safety representative being present. On June 13, Mr. Farr received the attached letter from Mr. Paul N. Stanton, La Pointe Assistant Sales Manager. This letter stated that they had detected radioactivity on the equipment used in this test, and requested that a check be made into this problem by MEO as soon as possible. Mr. Farr requested that a member of the Industrial Hygiene Department make this trip to ascertain the seriousness of the situation and to supervise any decontamination found necessary.

Persons Visited

Mr. Paul N. Stanton - Assistant Sales Manager, La Pointe Machine Tool Co.

Mr. Fred Allen - Cincinnati representative for La Pointe Machine Tool Co.

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HUDSON, MASSACHUSETTS ON JULY 9, 1956
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Description of Trip

An extensive radioactive contamination survey was conducted on the broaching machine and the arbor press in question, and also the area surrounding these machines with a 2610-A beta-gamma survey instrument. Background readings of approximately 0.08 mr/hr gamma were noted. With the exception of two locations on the broaching machine and one on the arbor press, radiation levels never exceeded twice the background (0.16 mrep/hr beta γ). Readings at these locations were approximately 0.25 mrep/hr beta γ . A single swipe with a rag reduced these levels below 0.10 mrep/hr beta γ , indicating the presence and removal of an extremely small amount of radioactive material, presumably uranium. These rags were returned to NLO by the writer.

Miscellaneous Comments

Complete cooperation was experienced with all La Pointe personnel. Mr. Stanton was well satisfied with the findings and requested a letter stating that the equipment was below any harmful limits.

Commitments

Upon the request of Mr. Paul N. Stanton, it was agreed that a letter relating the results of the survey would be sent to him.

Original Signed By


F. W. Boone

FJB:bg

Attach. (2)

cc: G. W. Wunder (2), Attach.

R. C. Heatherton, Attach.

J. Farr, Attach.

C. Pelson, Attach.

Central File, Attach. ✓

12-1-1-2

July 13, 1956

CONTAMINATION SURVEY - LA POINTE MACHINE TOOL CO., HUDSON, MASSACHUSETTS

J. Farr

R. C. Heatherton

At your request an extensive radioactive contamination survey was conducted on July 9, 1956, by F. W. Boone of this Division at the above plant on equipment used by you in a test there in February. This equipment included a breaching machine and an arbor press. The area surrounding these machines was also monitored.

Very slight amounts of radioactive material, presumably uranium, were found at a few locations on the machines, but none on the floors. This was removed by Mr. Boone and returned to Fernald. After this material was removed, another check was made of the equipment and no further contamination was found. Thus, it would now be classified as non-contaminated.

Original Signed By



R. C. Heatherton

FMB:bg

cc: J. A. Quigley
P. N. Stanton, La Pointe Mach. Tool Co.

Central File ✓