

Signed at Washington, DC, this 11th day of August, 1998.

**W. Stuart Rust, Jr.,**

*Chief, Division of Management Systems,  
Bureau of Labor Statistics.*

[FR Doc. 98-21919 Filed 8-13-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-24-M

## NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice (98-107)]

### Notice of Prospective Patent License

**AGENCY:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

**ACTION:** Notice of Prospective Patent License.

**SUMMARY:** NASA hereby gives notice that SynComm, Inc., of San Diego, CA, has applied for a partially exclusive license to practice the invention described and claimed in U.S. Patent No. 5,451,769 entitled, "CIRCULAR ELECTRODE GEOMETRY METAL-SEMICONDUCTOR-METAL PHOTODETECTORS," which is assigned to the United States of America as represented by the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Written objections to the prospective grant of a license should be sent to Langley Research Center.

**DATES:** Responses to this notice must be received by October 13, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Linda B. Blackburn, Patent Counsel, Langley Research Center, Mail Code 212, Hampton, VA 23681-0001; telephone (757) 864-3521; fax (757) 864-9190.

Dated: August 5, 1998.

**Edward A. Frankle,**  
*General Counsel.*

[FR Doc. 98-21810 Filed 8-13-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7510-01-M

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### Source Disconnects Resulting From Radiography Drive Cable Failures

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is announcing the availability of NUREG-1631, "Source Disconnects Resulting from Radiography Drive Cable Failures," dated June 1998.

In late 1997, the NRC received a number of reports of industrial

radiography system drive cable failures. All of the failures occurred immediately behind the male connector and appeared to be generic in nature. Although drive cable failures have occurred periodically within the industrial radiography industry, it was uncommon to experience so many apparently identical failures within such a brief period of time.

The apparent generic nature of the events, the potential for serious exposure to radiographers, and the possibility that the issue went beyond NRC jurisdiction thus affecting Agreement States warranted NRC's attention. As a result, a Special Team Inspection was initiated on December 22, 1997. The inspection involved interaction with three Agreement States including close coordination of inspection activities conducted within their jurisdiction. The involved Agreement States, (the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the States of Louisiana and Texas) took the lead role in their respective states, with NRC staff participating in all phases of the special inspection.

NUREG 1631 documents the results of this Special Team Inspection. This report describes the investigation of the initially reported drive cable failures, other failures identified during the inspection, the methodology used in the inspection, and presents the Team's findings, conclusions, and recommendations. Inspections were conducted at industrial radiography equipment manufacturing facilities and at selected industrial radiography licensees who had reportedly experienced drive cable failures. An inspection was also performed at the plant where the drive cable is manufactured.

A significant portion of this inspection focused on examining the drive cable. The carbon steel drive cable is an off-the-shelf component used by all radiography equipment manufacturers and has been provided to the radiography industry since the early 1960s. The cable is primarily used in the aerospace industry and the manufacturer found no similar failures reported in the aerospace applications.

Metallurgical analysis of the failed cables concluded these drive cable failures were due to a combination of wear, corrosion, and lack of lubrication, all indications of improper maintenance. The inspection identified several significant concerns regarding drive cable maintenance practices and identified several root causes, secondary causes, and contributing factors.

The inspection report contains several recommendations to the cable

manufacturer, the radiography equipment manufacturers, radiography licensees, the radiography industry, and to regulatory agencies that license industrial radiography. These recommendations are aimed at improving the understanding of the drive cable's design and limitations and to encourage the development and use of appropriate procedures for the inspection, lubrication, and maintenance of drive cables to ensure that the cable may continue to be used safely for industrial radiography; and reduce the possibility of a serious radiation exposure as the result of a drive cable failure.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Larry W. Camper, Mail Stop TWFN 8-F-5, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, telephone (301) 415-7231; electronic mail address: lwc@nrc.gov.

### Electronic Access

NUREG-1631 will be available electronically by visiting NRC's Home Page (<http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/nucmat.html>) approximately two weeks after the publication date of this notice.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 23rd day of July, 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Larry W. Camper,**

*Chief, Materials Safety Branch, Division of  
Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety,  
NMSS.*

[FR Doc. 98-21852 Filed 8-13-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Project No. 697]

### Notice of Receipt of DOE Topical Report on Tritium Production Core

In order to maintain the strategic stockpile, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is considering the use of commercial light-water reactors (CLWRs) to produce tritium. On July 30, 1998, DOE submitted a topical report to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) entitled, "Tritium Production Core (TPC) Topical Report," that describes how the inclusion of significant numbers of tritium-producing burnable absorber rods (TPBARs) in the reactor core affects nuclear plant systems, safety and component analyses, and performance for a reference CLWR.